Trench MF14 narrative

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Introduction

Trench MF14 was a 10m x 15m rectangular trench initially opened in MF02 and completed in MF03. It was located on a group of very strong positive magnetic anomalies close to the area of the 1930's excavations of the Roman Temple complex. Trench MF14 contains features and material culture spanning from the early Iron Age through the Romano-British period (Figure 1). This includes a dense cluster of intercutting Iron Age pits with rich deposits of ceramics and animal bone in the northern half of the trench, a Roman cobbled stone surface in the southwestern corner of the trench, and large Roman rubbish pit (*favissa)* and midden in the southeastern corner of the trench. A summary of the main features is presented below, moving from Iron Age to Roman periods.

Iron Age Period

The earliest archaeological features in Trench MF14 are 25 cuts, mainly in the northern half of the trench, intentionally constructed pits. These pits are generally roughly circular or oval in shape, with vertical or sloped sides that cut through the limestone bedrock into the underlying natural sand. It should be noted that digging through the bedrock would have taken substantial effort, suggesting the importance of these pits. The pits varied in size, with most around 1m in diameter, and several up to 2m in diameter. There was also variation in depth, some being over 1m deep and others surviving only as shallow depressions. Most of the pits contain multiple fills, including many that included deliberate depositions of material culture. The fills produced a rich assortment of early to middle Iron Age pottery, animal bones, and Roman pottery in some of the upper levels (most likely worked into the pits from subsequent Roman activity). It seems likely that these pits were not used for storage, but rather for deposition, potentially related to ritual practices, as they were not located in close proximity to Iron Age domestic features. Here we briefly describe and illustrate the pits based upon three groups: Pit Cluster 1; Pit Cluster 2; and Stand-alone Pits.

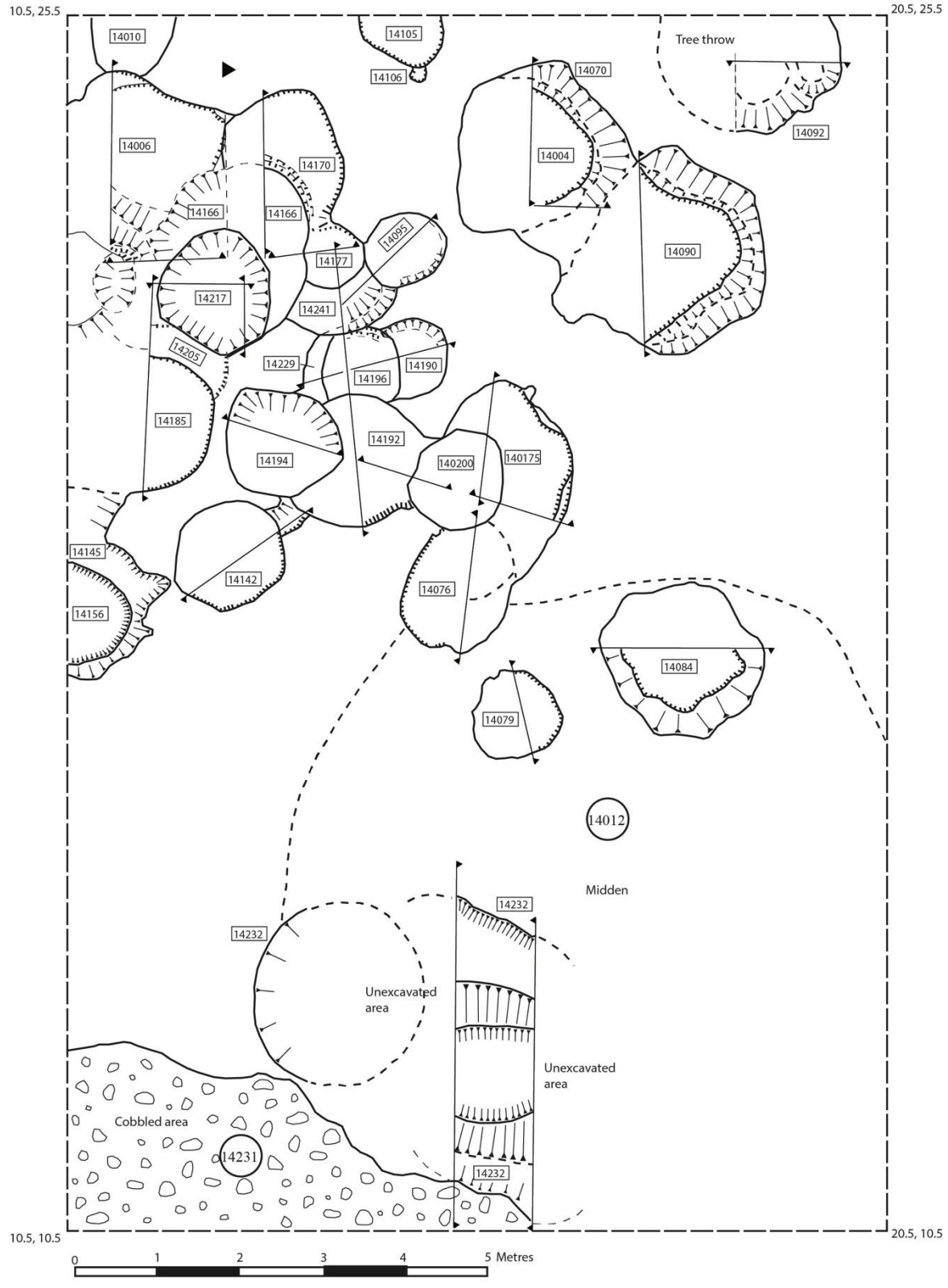


Figure 1. Trench MF14 partially excavated (note that [14232] was excavated further and became the favissa pit [14232/14295]). The midden overlying the pit is depicted by the dotted line.

Pit Cluster 1

Clearing the plough soil in northeastern corner of the trench revealed a dense cluster of up to 18 distinct intercutting pits that were cut into, and in most cases through, the thin shelf of natural limestone bedrock [14010; 14006; 14170; 14166; 14217; 14205; 14185; 14177; 14095; 14241; 14229; 14196; 14190; 14194; 14192; 14200; 14175; and 14076]. The stratigraphic relationships between these pits are presented in Figure 2. Given the complex nature of the intercutting, it is not possible to fit all pits within a neat chronological sequence from earliest to latest. Here we briefly describe four clearly identifiable sequences.

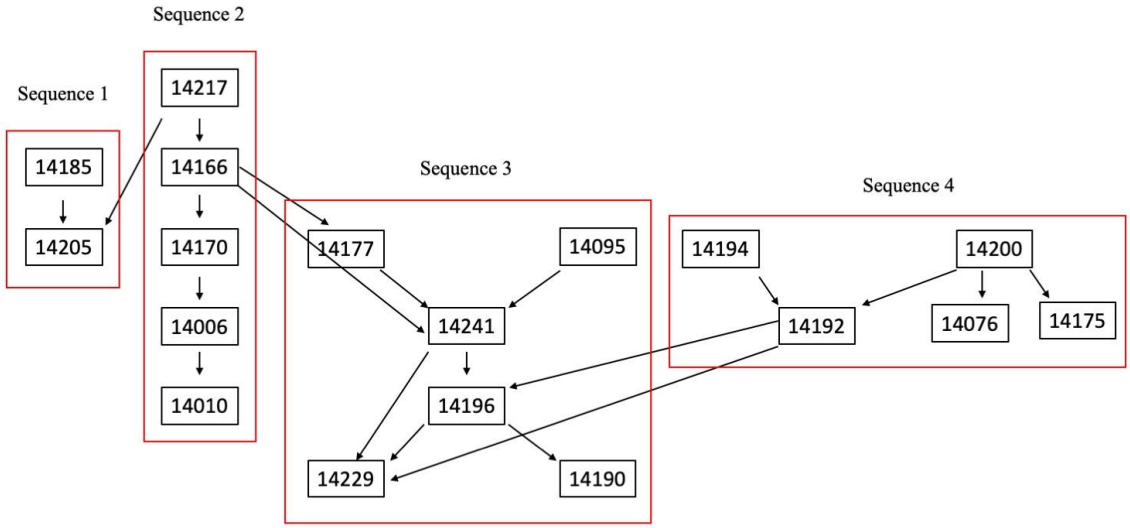


Figure 2. Stratigraphic relationships of the 18 intercutting pits within Pit Cluster 1.

Cluster 1, Sequence 1 Pits [14205 and 14185]

Sequence 1 consists of three pits [14205; 14185; and 14217]. As [14217] post-dates both [14205] and [14185] and it is not possible to connect [14205] with the pits directly to the north in the Cluster, group [14217] is the latest cut within Sequence 2 (below). Suggestions of a cut [14205] with a single fill (14206), which contained 74 sherds of Iron Age pottery. Pit [14205] was largely truncated by two large and clearly defined Pits [14185] and [14217] (Figure 3). Pit [14185] had steep sides and a flat bottom, *c.* 1.5 metres across and just over a metre deep. It contained a thin initial fill (14242), followed by two substantial and clearly intentional fills that contained an extensive amount of Iron Age pottery, charcoal, and animal bones (including burnt bone) (14188) and (14186).

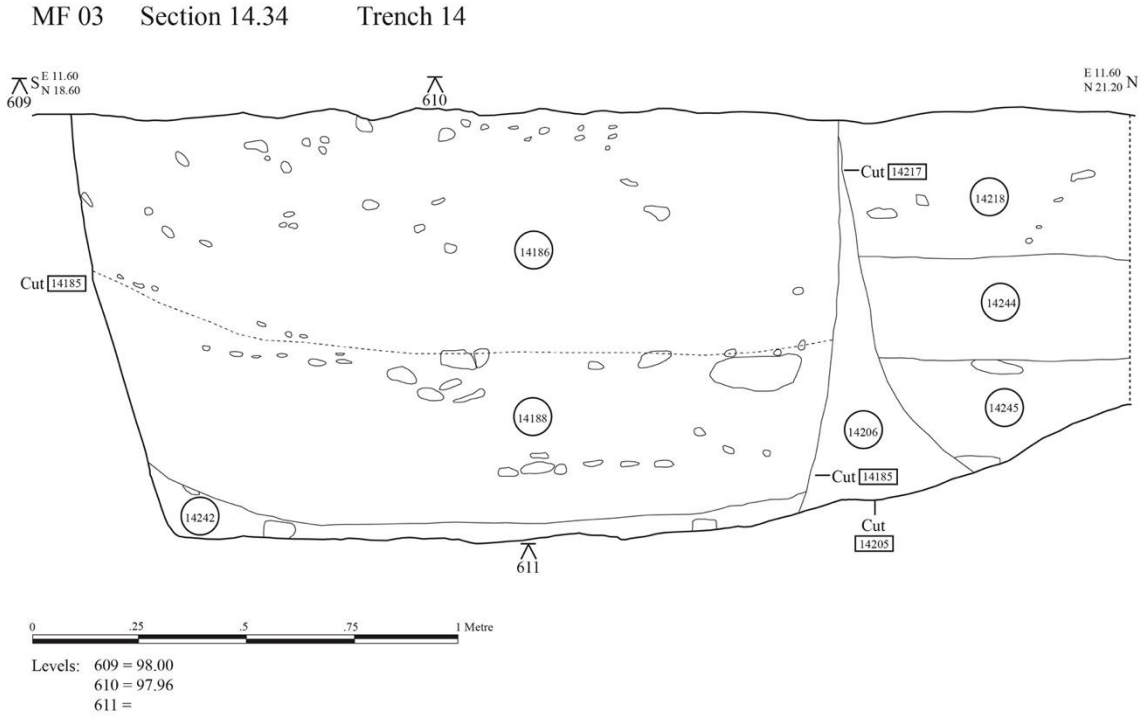


Figure 3. Section 14.34 showing two clearly defined Iron Age pits [14185 and 14217] that were dug into what seems to have been an earlier Iron Age pit [14205]. Pit [14217] is the final cut in this sequence.

Cluster 1, Sequence 2 Pits [14010; 14006; 14170; 14166; and 14217]

Sequence 2 consists of 5 intercutting pit that present a clear chronological sequence. The earliest pit [14010] is a shallow cut with one fill (14011) that contains 12 sherds of Iron Age pottery (Figure 4). Pit [14010] was cut by [14006], a roughly circular pit *c.* 2m wide and *c*. 1m deep with irregular sides and bottom (Figures 4 and 5). This pit contained 4 fills (14150; 14149; 14069; and 14007), all of which contained Iron Age pottery and animal bone. Pit [14006] was cut by two pits [14166 and 14170], with [14170] the earlier of the two pits. What survives of pit [14170] has vertical sides and a flat bottom (Figures 6 and 7). Pit [14170] had two fills (14183/14168 and 14171), both of which contained Iron Age pottery. Pit [14170] was cut by [14166] (Figures 6 and 7), a large, roughly oval shaped cut *c.* 1.9m across and 1m deep with steep sides and a flat bottom. Pit [14166] contained six fills (14167; 14214; 14169/14221; 14199; 14215; and 14216/14222), four of which, including the basal deposit, contained Iron Age pottery. The final pit in the sequence [14217] is a sub-circular cut with irregular sides *c.* 1.1m across and 0.7m deep with a flat bottom (Figures 3 and 8). The pit contains three fills (14218; 14244; and 14245). The upper fill of the pit (14218) contained 37 sherds of Iron Age pottery, and two sherds of Roman pottery. It is likely that this was an Iron Age pit.

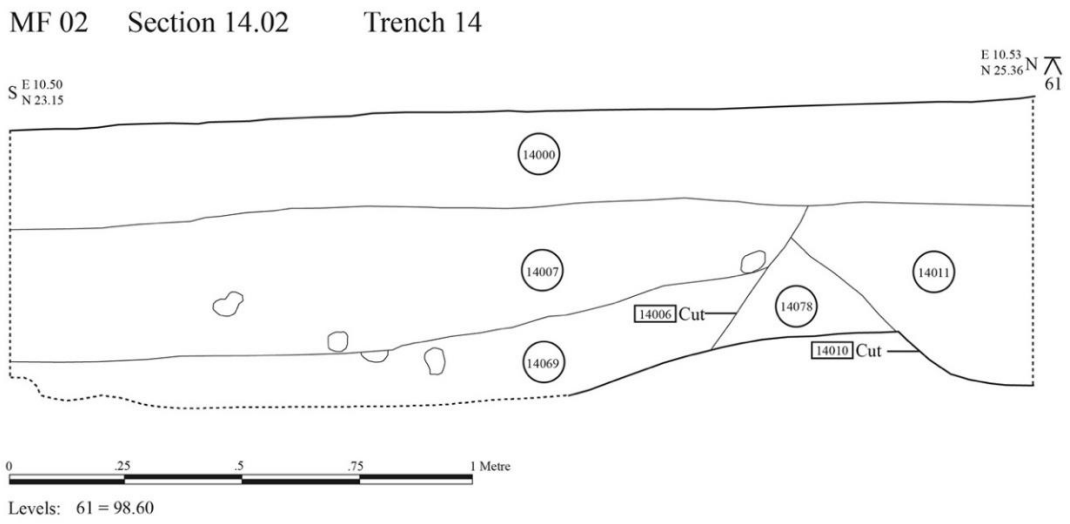


Figure 4. Section 14.02 showing the relationship between shallow cut [14010] and a deeper pit [14006]. Note that Section 14.02 was only partially excavated in MF02. Pit [14006] was completed in MF03 (Figure 5).

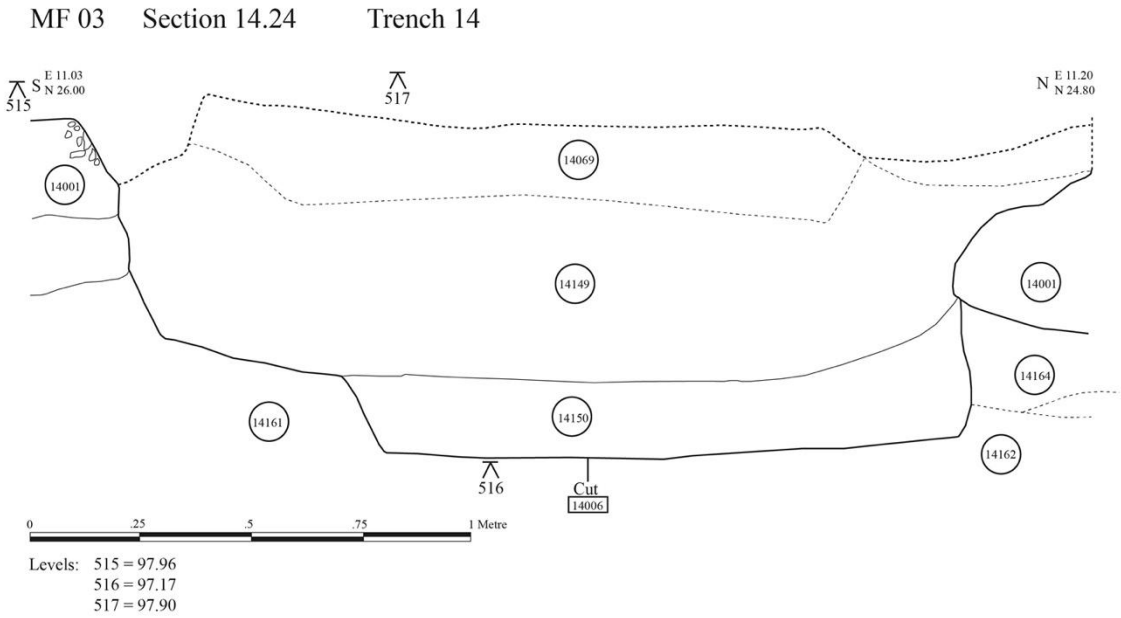


Figure 5. Section 14.24 showing the completely excavated Iron Age pit [14006]. The uppermost fill of [14006] is depicted in Figure 4 (14007).

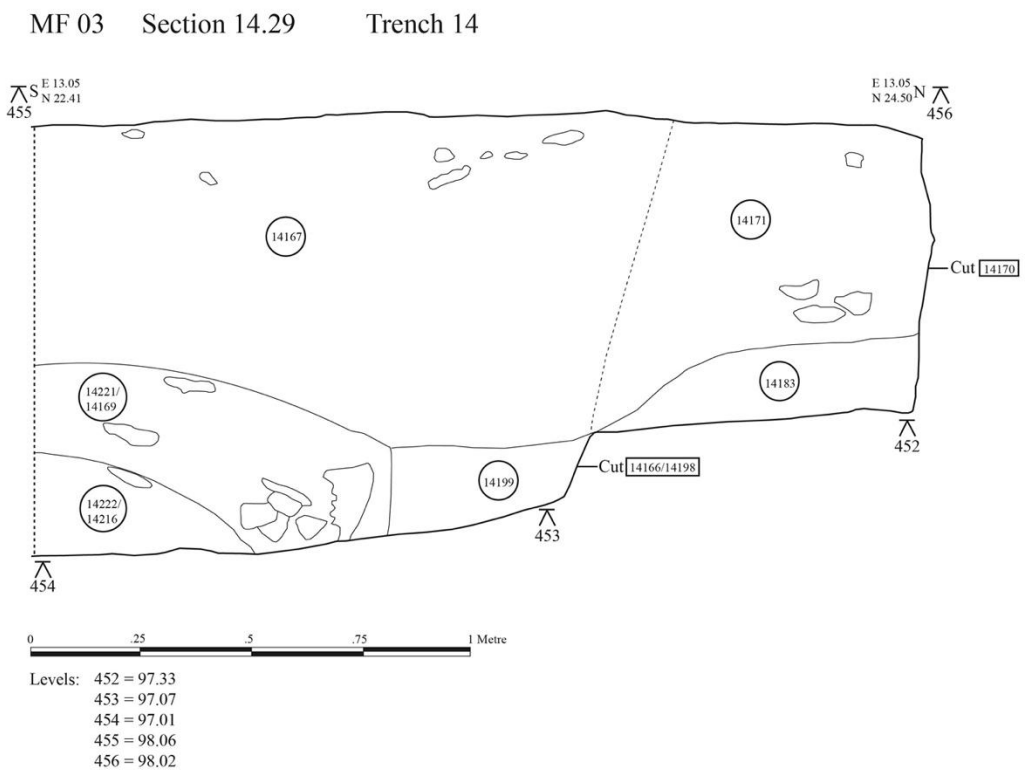


Figure 6. Section 14.29 showing two Iron Age pits. The earlier pit [14170] was cut by a larger pit [14166/14198]. Another angle of [14170] (Figure 7).

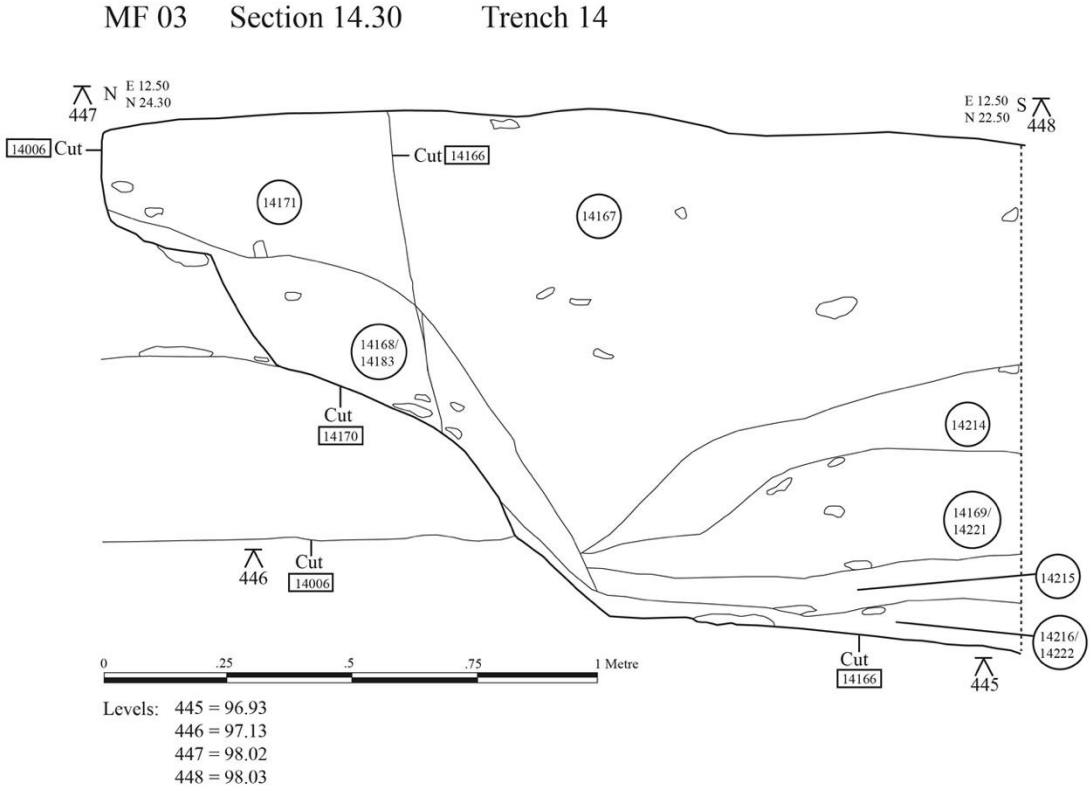


Figure 7. Section 14.30 showing two Iron Age pits. The earlier pit [14170] was cut by a larger pit [14166/14198]. Another angle of [14170] (Figure 6).

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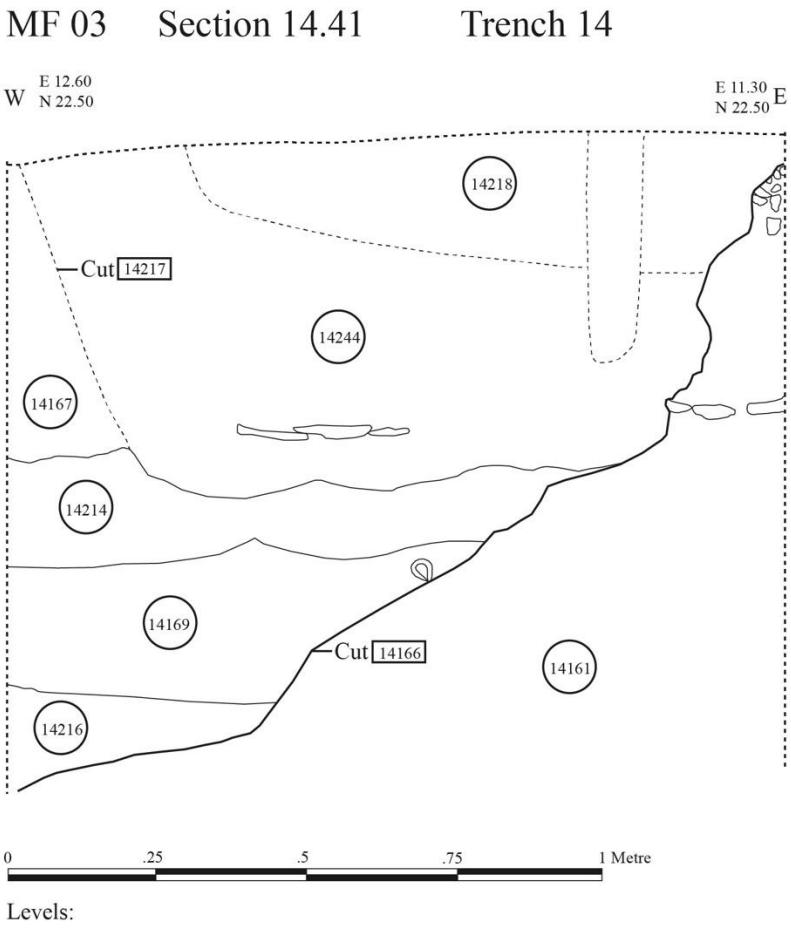


Figure 8. Section 14.41 showing two Iron Age pits [14166 and 14217]. The earlier pit [14166] was cut by a smaller pit [14217].

Cluster 1, Sequence 3 Pits [14229; 14190; 14196; 14241; 14177; and 14095].
Sequence 3 consists of six intercutting pits; all of which pre-date [14166]. It is not possible to determine the sequence of the earliest two pits [14229 and 14190], as they are truncated by pit [14196]. Possible pit [14229] is heavily damaged by subsequent cuts, and so it is not possible to determine its shape or dimensions (Figures 9 and 10). It contains one fill (14230), but without any datable material culture. Cut [14190] is a shallow scoop, that is cut by [14196] (Figure 11). It contains one fill (14191) that had produced five sherds of Iron Age pottery. Both [14229 and 14190] were cut by a shallow, oval scoop [14196], with one fill (14204/14197) that contained a small amount of Iron Age pottery (Figures 9 to 12). Cut [14196] was cut by a slightly deeper scoop [14241], with shallow sides and a gently rounded bottom (Figures 12 and 13). Cut [14241] has one fill (14202), which contained 15 sherds of Iron Age and one sherd of Roman pottery. Cut [14241] is truncated by two cuts which do not overlap stratigraphically with each other. [14095] is a shallow, sub-circular cut into the bedrock, *c.* 0.75m across and 0.15m deep, with a flat bottom (Figure 13). It has one fill (14094), that contains 34 pieces of Iron Age and one piece of Roman pottery. [14177] is a circular cut, just under 1m in diameter and *c.* 0.5m deep (Figure 12). It has one fill (14239/14178) that contains 19 sherds of Iron Age and three sherds of Roman pottery. This is most likely a small pit, or possibly a large post-hole. It is cut by [14166].

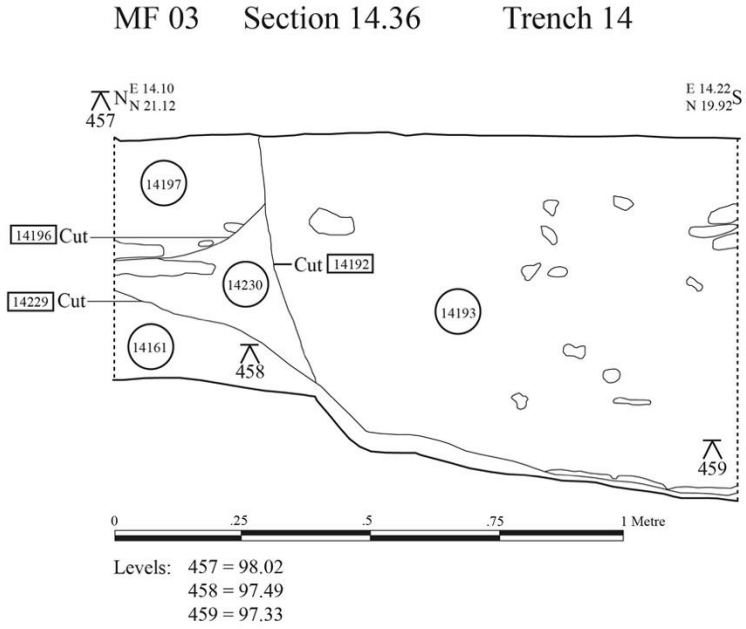


Figure 9. Section 14.36 showing a sequence of three cuts. The initial cut [14229] is cut by [14196], and both were cut by [14192].

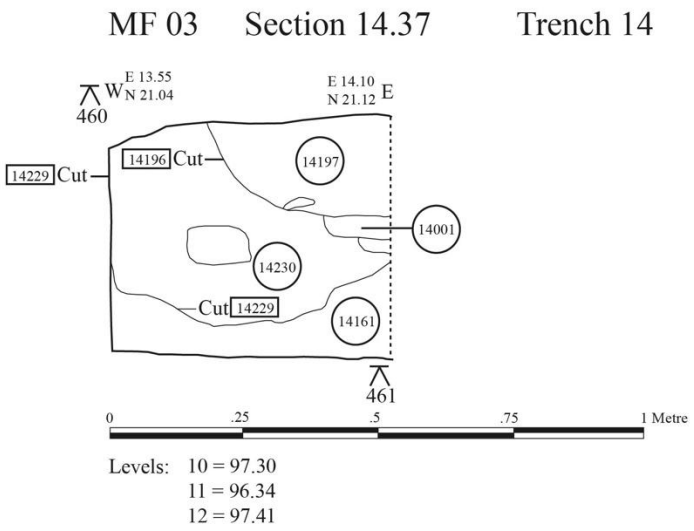


Figure 10. Section 14.37 showing cuts [14229] and [14196].

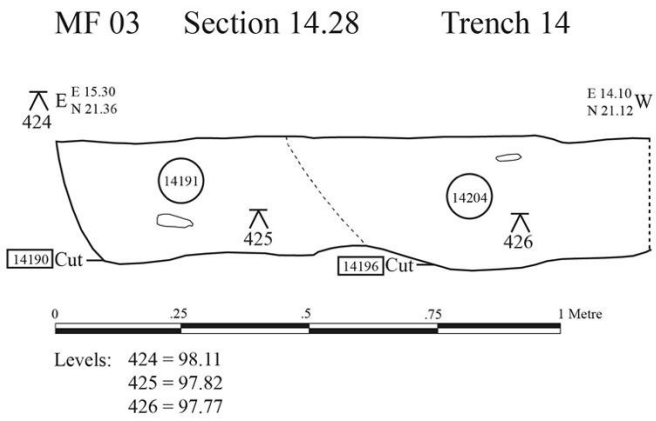


Figure 11. Section 14.28 showing the cuts of two shallow scoops, which are possible Iron Age features [14190 and 14196].

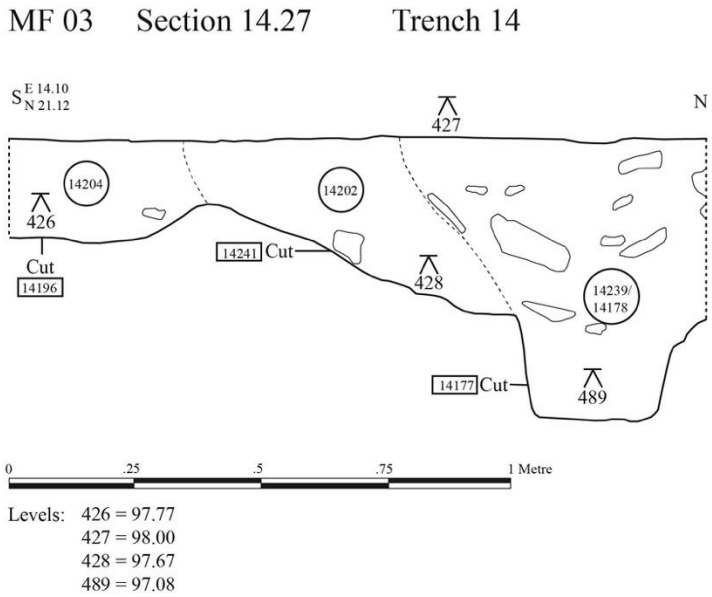


Figure 12. Section 14.27 showing three overlapping cuts. Shallow scoop [14196] cut by [14241], which was cut by [14177].

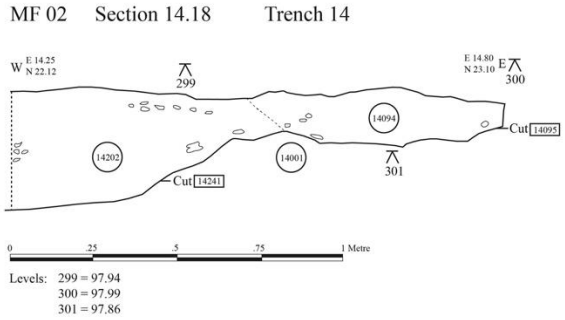


Figure 13. Section 14.18 showing shallow pit [14241] cut by a very shallow scoop [14095].

Cluster 1, Sequence 4 Pits [14192; 14175; 14076; 14194; and 14200].
Sequence 4 consists of five intercutting pits; at least three of which [14192; 14194; and 14200] post-date [14196]. The relationships between [14192; 14175; and 14076] is obscured by cut [14200], which is situated exactly where the interface between the earlier three pits would have been, the surviving evidence suggests that these three pits do not intercut with each other (Figures 14 – 16).

Cut [14175] is a sub-rectangular pit with steep sides and a flat bottom, *c.* 1.4m across and 1.1m deep (Figure 14). It has eight fills, all of which were deliberate dumps of material. The bottom fill (14212) contained large amounts of charcoal, burnt animal bone, and burnt Iron Age pottery. All the other fills contained a mixture of Iron Age pottery and animal bone, with several concentrations of large limestone blocks (14233) within the sequence. A small number of Roman sherds recovered from the upper fills, most likely worked in from the above Roman surface. Cut [14076] is a semi-circular pit *c.* 1.4m across and 0.6m deep with vertical sides and a flat bottom (Figure 15). It has four fills. The initial fill (14224) seems to have been a slump of natural material back into the pit. Fill (14225) on the other side of the pit is also possibly a slump of material. The other two fills are most likely deliberate dumps of material, which contain significant amounts of limestone blocks, animal bone, and Iron Age pottery (in upper fill (14077). Cut [14192] is a circular pit through the bedrock *c.* 1.4 metres across and 0.65m deep with straight sides and a flat bottom. It has one fill (14220/14193), which contains animal bone and Iron Age pottery (Figures 9, 16, and 17). All three of these pits were truncated by cut [14200], which was a shallow scoop with an irregular shape and an undulating bottom. It wasn't clear in the field if this was a natural depression or deliberate cut. It has three fills, the uppermost of which contains Iron Age pottery. Pit [14192] is cut by a circular pit, *c.* 1m across and 0.7m deep [14194] with steep sides and a sloping bottom (Figure 18).

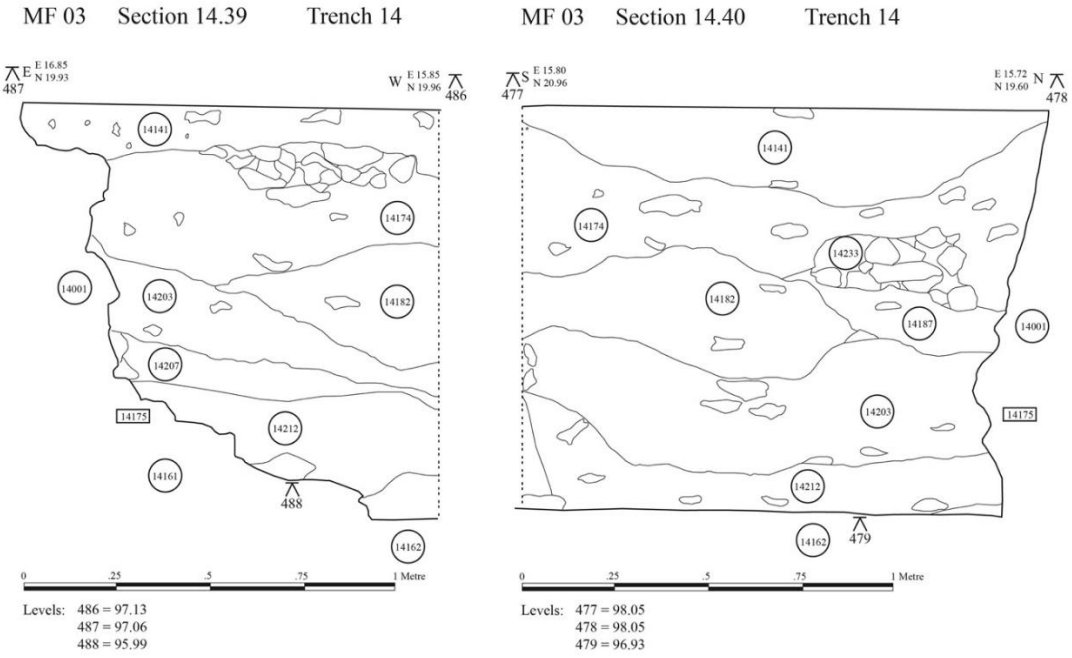


Figure 14a and b. Sections 14.39 and 14.40 showing stratigraphy of pit [14175] after it was quartered. The dotted lines on the west end of section 14.39 and the south end of section

14.40 join together in a roughly right angle. The plan and field notes indicate that cut [14200] truncates part of [14175], but that is not evidence in these sections.

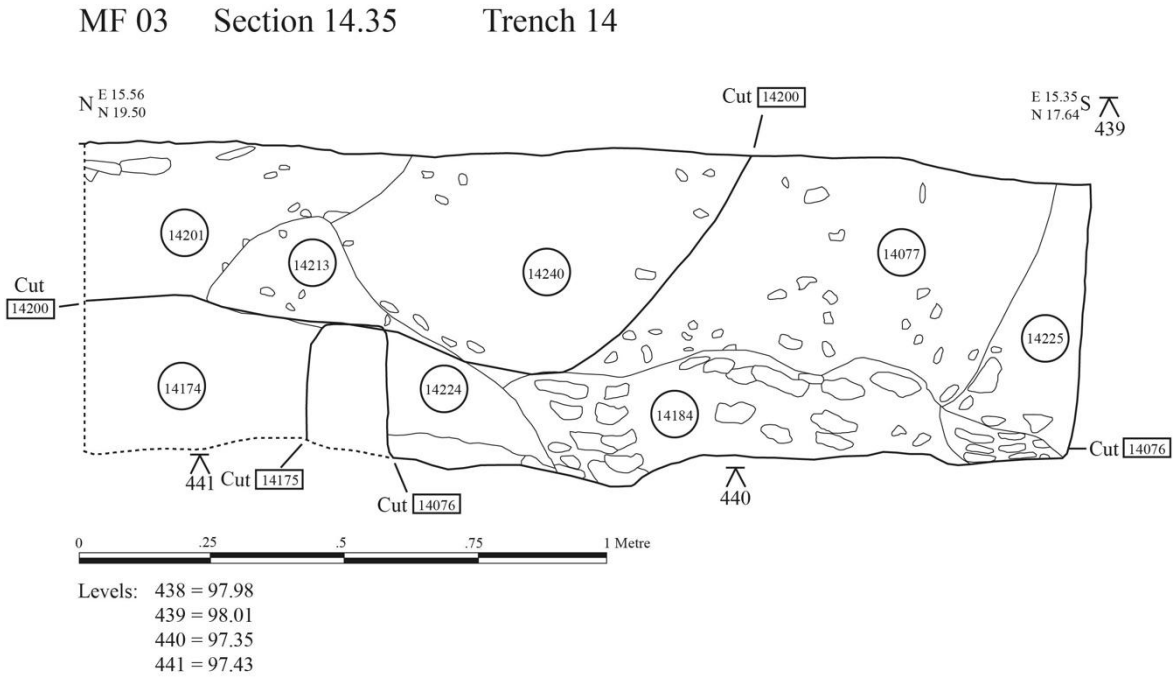


Figure 15. Section 14.35 showing the relationships between three cuts. Note there is a c.25m vertical segment of limestone bedrock between the cuts of [14175] and [14076]. Both of these pits were later cut by shallower pit [14200].

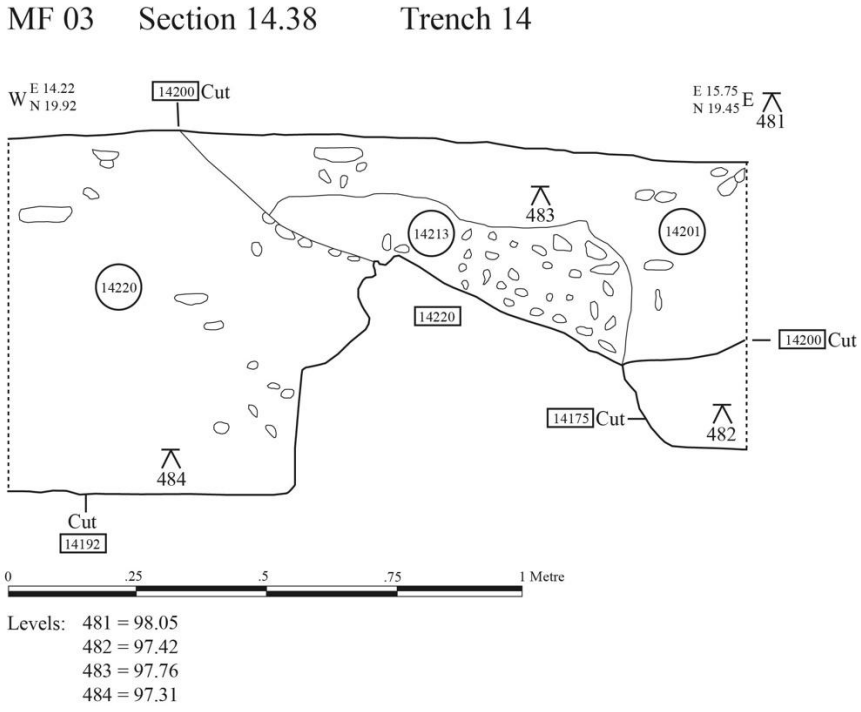


Figure 16. Section 14.38, running east – west, showing the relationships between three cuts [14192], [14175], and [14200]. Note there is a c.5m segment of limestone bedrock between the cuts of [14175] and [14192]. Both of these pits were later cut by shallower pit [14200].

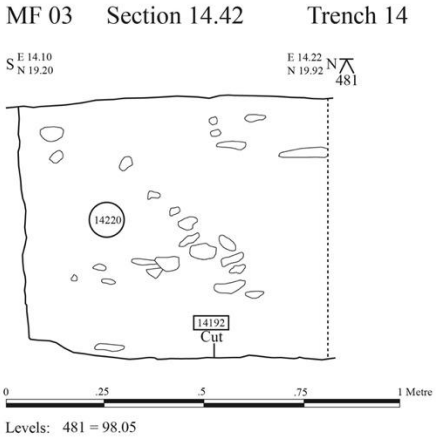


Figure 17. Section 14.42, running north-south, showing a cross section of pit [14192] and its single fill (14220).

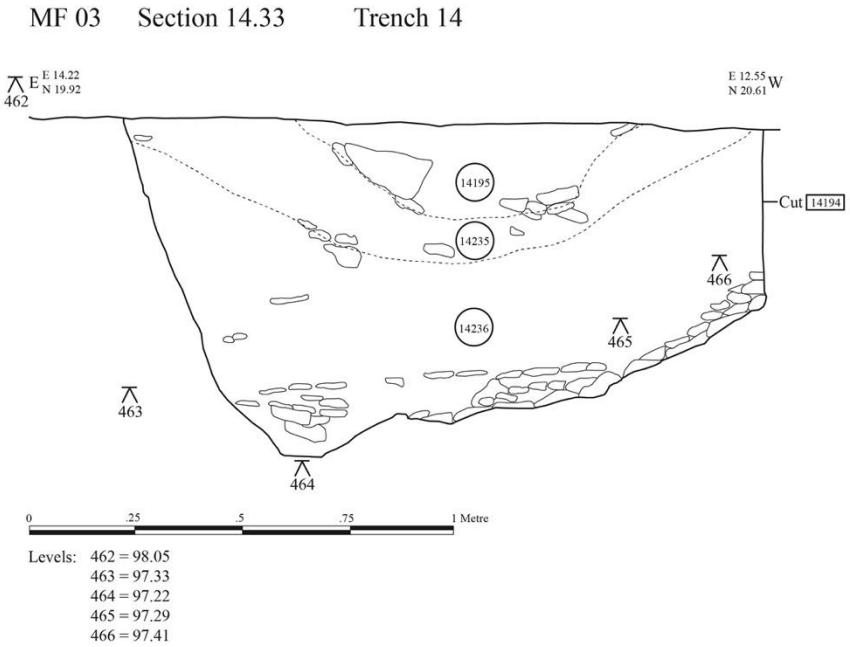


Figure 18. Section 14.33, running east-west, showing a cross section of pit [14194] and its three fills (14195; 14235; and 14236).

Pit Cluster 2

Excavations revealed a cluster of three cuts to the east of Pit Cluster 1 [14070; 14004; and 14090]. Cut [14004] is a large pit *c.* 1.5m across and 1.3m deep with irregular sides and a V-shaped bottom (Figure 19). The pit has five fills (14071; 14072; 14101; 14111; and 14115). All of the fills contained Iron Age pottery, with some Roman sherds in two of the fills (though it seems likely that these got worked into secure Iron Age deposits). It is possible that the upper fill of the pit (14071) was cut by shallow scoop [14070], which had one fill (14005) that

contained a rich assortment of Iron Age pottery. Cut [14090] is a large, roughly square shaped pit, *c.* 2m across and 1m deep with a shallow U-shaped bottom (Figure 20). The fills within the pit show an interesting sequence of deposition. The initial fill (14238) contained lots of charred material (stones, animal bones, charcoal, and pottery) and produced 123 sherds of Iron Age pottery. This was clearly a deliberate dump of material possibly of a votive nature. The next two fills in the sequence (14237) and (14226) both consisted of yellow sandy material similar to the natural sand found underneath the thin shelf of limestone bedrock that the pits cut through. Both had some Iron Age pottery, but were free of the intense burning evident in the underlying deposit (14238). This was followed by fill (14219), which was similar to the basal deposit, and contained heavily charred material and 71 sherds of Iron Age pottery. This fill was covered by two thin sandy deposits (14210) and (14227), neither of which contained pottery. The upper fill of the pit (14091) contained an extensive amount of material culture, including animal bones and 128 sherds of Iron Age pottery. The lack of weathering at the bottom and the sequence of clearly deliberate deposits rich in material culture and indication of burning which were covered in thin layers of sandy material, suggests that this pit was never used for storage, but rather created for depositional purposes. It is possible that the interspersed sandy fills were either an intentional capping of the artefact-rich deposits, or the result of natural weathering between acts of deposition.

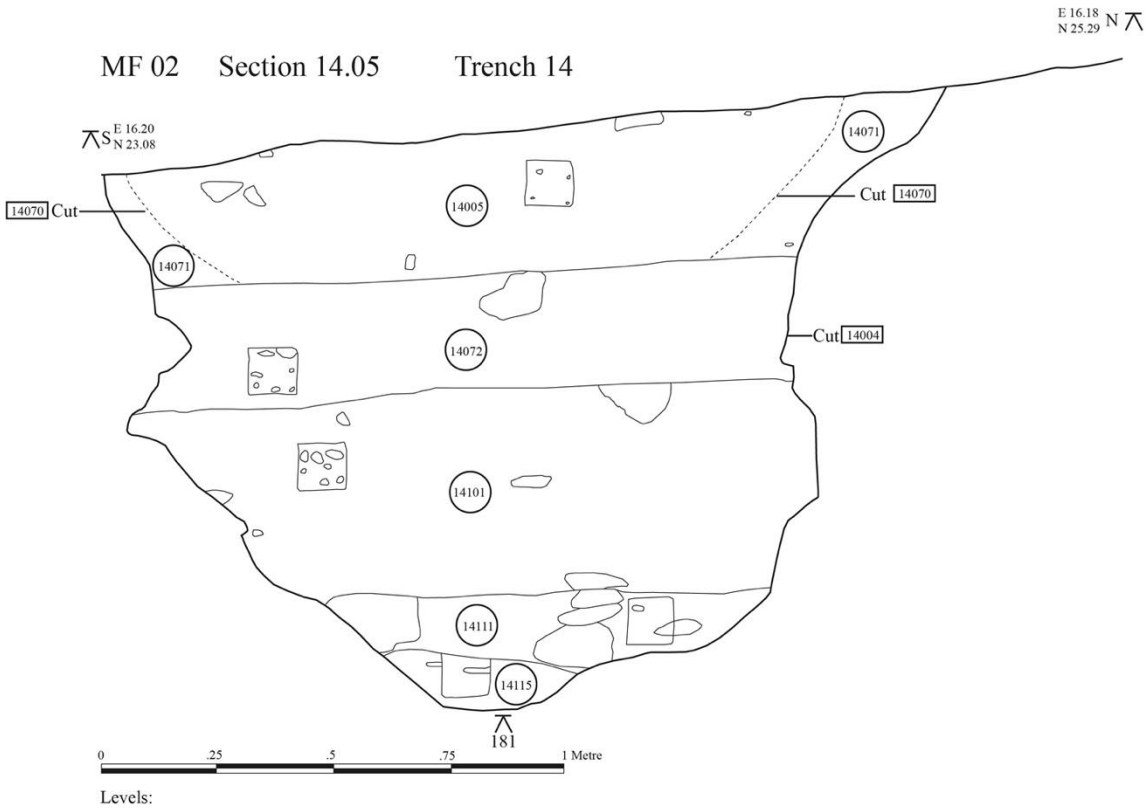


Figure 19. Section 14.05, running north-south, showing a cross section of pits [14004] and [14070].

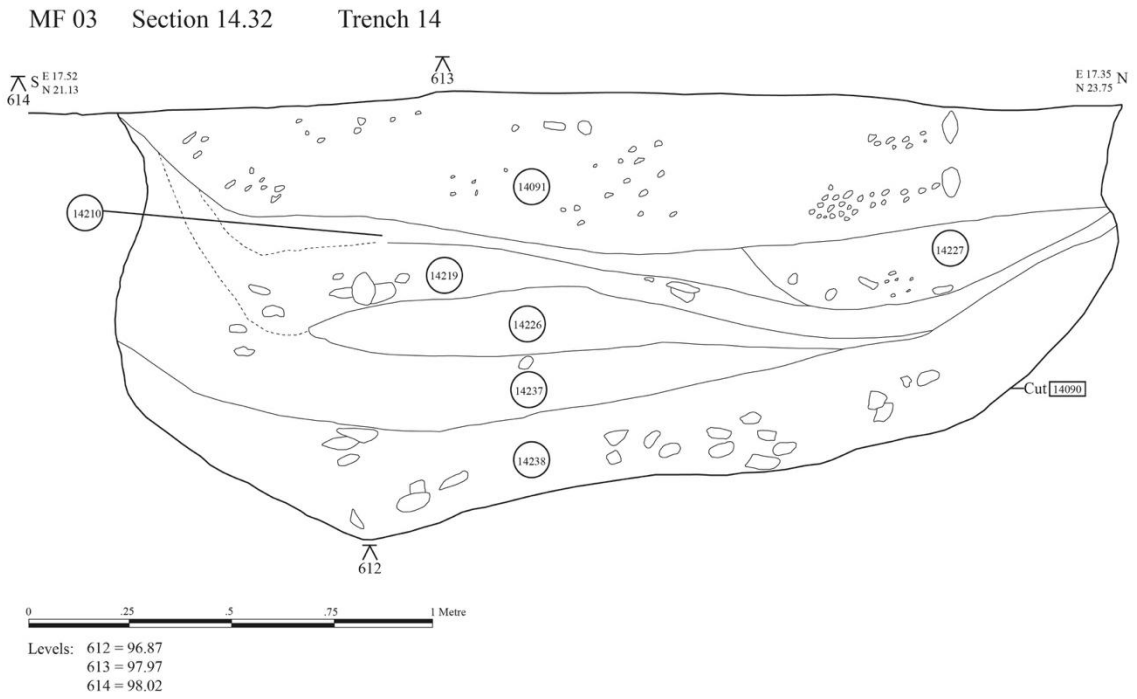


Figure 20. Section 14.32, running north-south, showing a cross section of pit [14090].

Stand-Alone Pits

Six cuts immediately surrounding the clusters, but which did not physically overlap with any of the other cuts [14105, 14156; 14145; 14142; 14079; 14084]. Cut [14105] ran under the north baulk of the trench. It had steep sides and an irregular u-shaped bottom (Figure 21). It had three fills (14088; 14109; and 14147), each of which contained animal bone fragments and small amounts of Iron Age pottery. Irregular shaped cut [14156], *c.* 2.5m across, turned out to be a shallow depression (possibly a tree-throw) with one fill (14160). This was cut by a circular pit [14145] *c.* 1.5m across and 0.85m deep with steep sides and a flat bottom (Figure 22). The pit had five fills (14146; 14155; 14159; 14172; and 14173]. The initial two fills seem to consist mainly of material that was initially dug out while constructing the pit. The rest of the fills were deliberate deposits, containing fragments of animal bone and Iron Age pottery, with the top fill (14146) producing several sherds of Roman pottery. Pit [14142] is a circular cut, *c.* 1.8m in diameter and 1m deep with irregular steep sides and a flat bottom (Figure 23). The initial deposit was a clearly deliberate dump of limestone blocks mixed with animal bone and Iron Age pottery. Two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from this context, but this seems highly unlikely and is most likely a recording error. This is followed by a sequence of deliberate dumps of material, rich in charcoal, burnt stone, animal bone, and Iron Age pottery (with some Roman material recorded in the upper fill. Pit [14079] was found under the Roman midden (14012). It is a circular cut *c.* 1.1m across and 0.8m deep, with vertical sides and a flat bottom (Figure 24). The pit had nine fills. Other than a thin basal fill (14181) that was sterile, all of the other fills were deliberate dumps of material containing burnt stones, fragments of animal bones, and Iron Age pottery. The final stand-alone pit [14084] was also located under the Roman midden (14012). It is a circular cut, *c.* 2m across and 1m deep, with irregular steep sides as a shallow U-shaped bottom (Figure 25). The pit had three fills. The bottom fill (14151) contained 92 sherds of Iron Age pottery. The second fill, which filled up most of the pit (14126) was clearly a deliberate deposit, with a rich assortment of Iron Age pottery (with several Roman sherds) and animal bone. This was topped by a thin layer (14085) that merged with the overlying Roman midden.

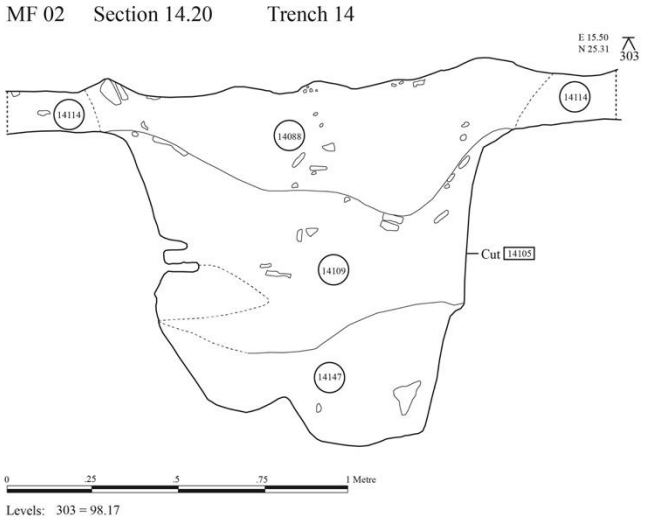


Figure 21. Section 14.20, running east-west showing a cross section of pit [14105].

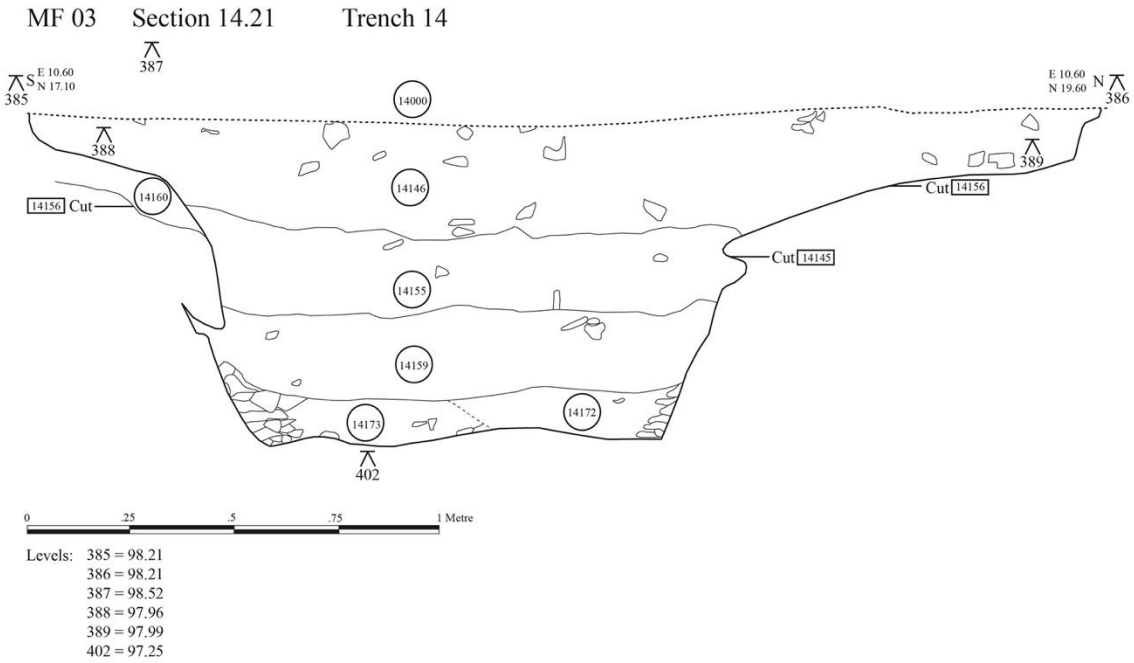


Figure 22. Section 14.21, running north-south showing a cross section of a wide and most likely natural depression [14156], which was cut by Iron Age pit [14156].

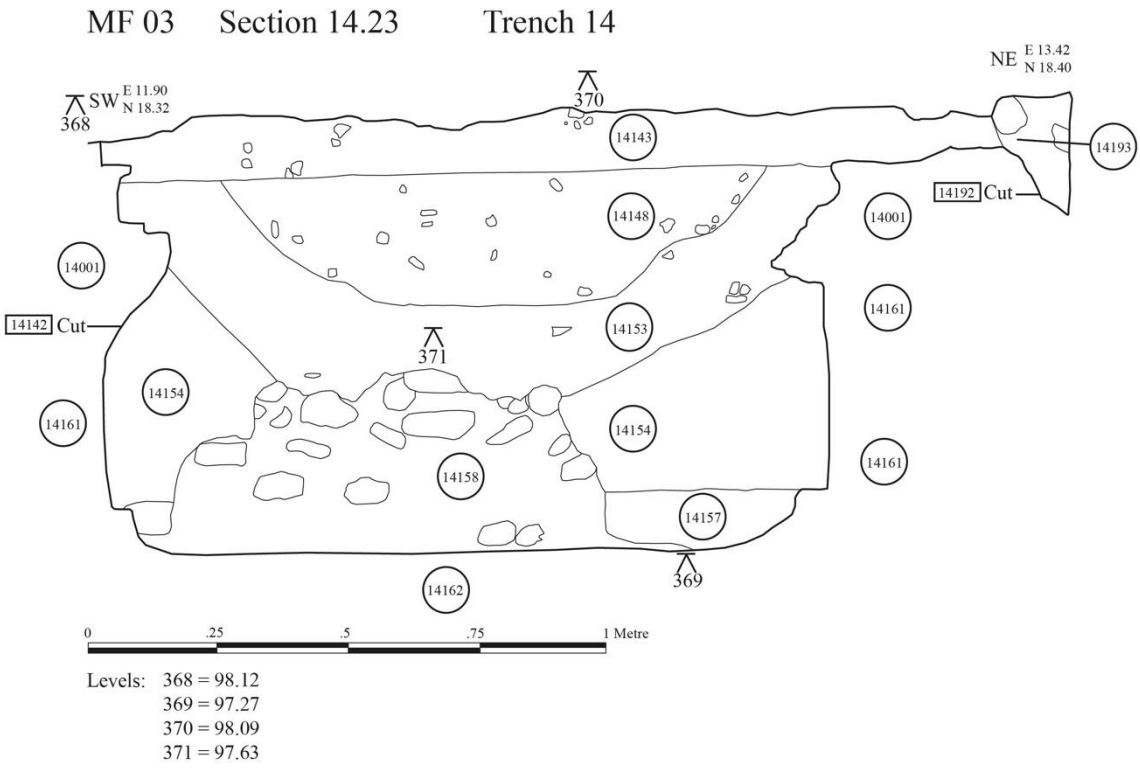


Figure 23. Section 14.23 showing a cross section Pit [14142].

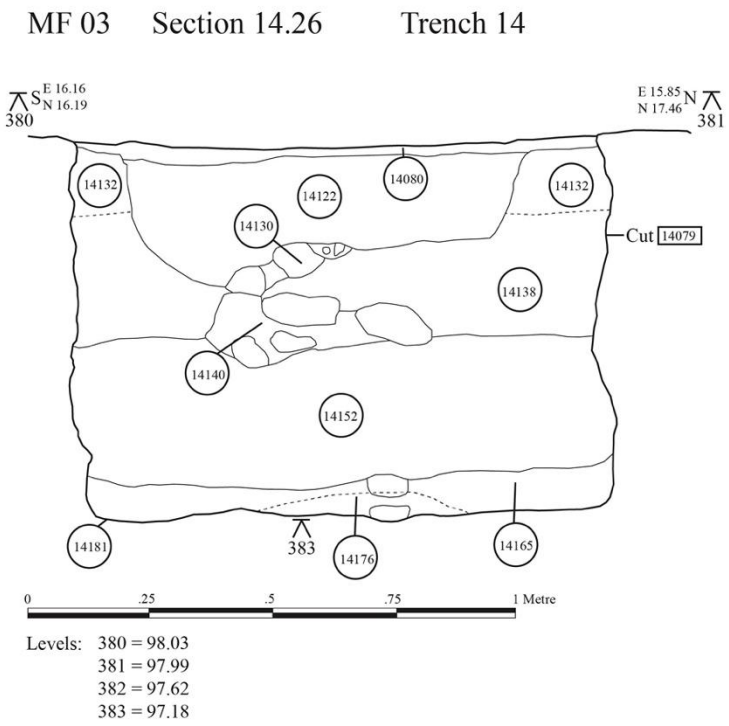


Figure 24. Section 14.26 showing a cross section Pit [14079].

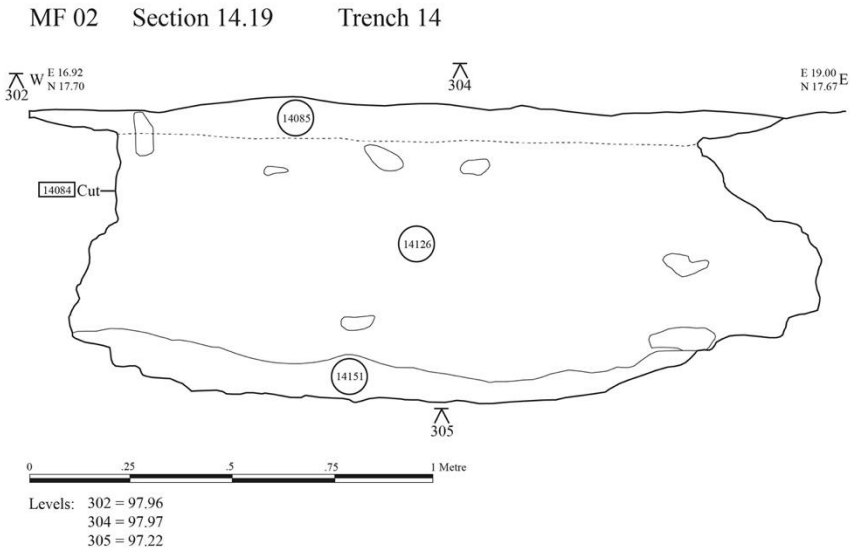


Figure 25. Section 14.19 showing a cross section Pit [14084].

Roman Period

The upper levels of some of the Iron Age pits, and the layers of sediment directly over the pits contained Roman material culture (pottery, some small metal finds, coins, etc.). Much of this could be attributed to the intensive Roman use of this area of the site. However, the southern half of the trench contained three clearly Roman features. The earliest, extending south and west beyond the trench edges, was a compact and deliberately constructed stone cobbled surface (14231), possibly some sort of pathway or working surface. The cobbled surface was cut by a large, irregularly shaped pit *c.* 3m x 6m across and 1.5m deep [14232/14295]. This pit contained extensive amounts of pottery (a small amount of Iron Age but mostly Roman), large, dumped stones, and animal bones and is considered to be a *favissa* pit situated in the corner of the *temenos* and used for the deposition of animal and other waste from activities within the temple. The material recovered from the pit seems to come from throughout the Roman period. The pit continued to be used for after it was full when it built up into a midden spreading out from the top of the pit. The midden (14012) covered approximately one third of the trench area. The midden layer was a maximum of 0.3m thick and composed of much animal bone, oyster shells, pottery and some metal artefacts within a dark organic matrix. Where excavated at its eastern extent it was deposited onto bedrock, while its western edges were not excavated. It thins and disappears towards the north.

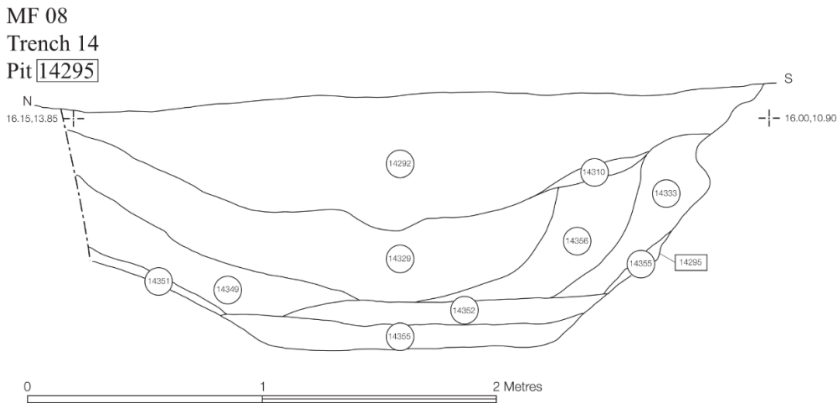


Figure 26. The favissa pit [14232/14295].

Conclusion
The 25 or so pits mainly concentrated in the northern area of the trench are Iron Age and show multiple fills containing a range of material culture including pottery and assorted artefacts. Some of these strongly suggest the practice of structured deposition, that is the deliberate deposition of groups of artefacts left as votive offerings to the deities of the underworld before the pit is filled. As is usually the case with Iron Age pits it is not possible to determine the original use of the pits although the highly fractured bedrock here suggests that they were probably not used as storage pits. It could be, therefore, that they were dug with the intent of being used for the deposition of votive offerings and then backfilled, as supported by the stratigraphy within some of them.

The single large pit dug in the Roman period is different. This is a *favissa* pit dug in the corner of the temenos and intended for the deposition of animal remains and other items probably used in the temple, perhaps as sacrifices and perhaps from the building in Trench MF18. The pit contained large quantities of a range of animals, some of which were charred together with the burnt remains of cereal crops.

Appendix Context Details

Iron Age

Cluster 1, Sequence 1 Pits [14205 and 14185]
[14205] CUT
Description: Sub-circular cut into the limestone bedrock with straight, parallel sides. Heavily truncated by later cuts. Contains only one surviving fill.
Relationships: Filled by (14206). Cut by [14217] and [14185].
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation*:* Cut of Iron age pit.

(14206) FILL
Description*:* Friable, dark yellowish-brown sandy loam with c 5% limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14205]. Cut by [14185] and [14217]. Overlain by (14245), (14244), and (14218); and (14242), (14188), and (14186).
Material Culture: A total of 74 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 69 PFW 1 PFWBL 1 PRWRE 2 RF 1
Interpretation: Iron Age pit, seems to contain the earliest pottery of this cluster of intercutting pits.

[142185] CUT Section 14.34
Description: Circular cut into the limestone bedrock, with straight sides and a flat bottom, c. 1.7m across and 1m deep.
Relationships*:* Filled by (14186), (14188), and (14242). Cuts [14205] and (14206).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Pit.

(14186) FILL
Description: Friable, dark greyish brown sandy loam with pockets of yellowish sand and c. 20% limestone inclusions, some charcoal, and burnt stone. Pottery and animal bone (often burnt) throughout the fill),
Relationships: Fill of [14185]. Overlies (14188) and (14206).

Material Culture: A total of 72 sherds of pottery, 70 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 2 Roman.
PCW 62 PFW 7 D 1
RCWR 2
Interpretation: Upper fill of pit, containing pot and bone throughout. Some pottery is well burnished, suggesting a late date.

(14188) FILL
Description: Friable, black silty sand with charcoal.
Relationships*:* Fill of [14185]. Possibly part of (14186). Overlies (14242) and (14206).
Material Culture: A total of 21 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 21
Interpretation*:* Possible charcoal deposit within the fill of (14186).

(14242) FILL
Description: Tenacious yellowish grey clay loam with some charcoal flecks.
Relationships: Fill of [14185]. Overlies (14206). Overlain by (14188).
Material Culture: A total of 2 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 2
Interpretation: Thin initial fill of pit. Mainly silt on clay – seems to be sealing the bottom of the pit, over the natural sand.

Cluster 1, Sequence 2 Pits [14010; 14006; 14170; 14166/14198; and 14217]
[14010] CUT
Description: Possibly circular cut with straight sides. Only small area was visible in trench and heavily truncated by plough and later cuts.
Relationships: Filled by (14011). Cuts (14078). Cut by [14006]. Overlain by (14007).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Only a small part of the cut is visible in the trench, but it is likely to be circular in plan and deeper than the available dimensions suggest. Contained quite a lot of Iron Age pottery in fill (14011).

(14011) FILL
Description: Friable, dark blackish brown clay loam with some small stone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14010]. Overlies (14078). Overlain by (14007).
Material Culture: A total of 12 sherds prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 10 PFWLB 2
Interpretation: Primary fill of possible shallow Iron Age pit. Part of a large cluster of intercutting pits/features.

[14006] CUT Sections 14.02 and 14.24
Description: Oval/sub-rectangular cut through the limestone bedrock, with vertical sides and a flat bottom.
Relationships: Filled by (14007), (14069), (14149), and (14150). Same as [14127]. Cuts [14010] and (14011). Cut by [14170] and [14166].
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Cut of a large Iron Age pit, one of the first of the sequence of intercutting pits in the north-west corner of the trench.

(14007) FILL
Description: Compact, dark blackish brown sandy clay with lots of charcoal flecks. Heavily truncated (bioturbation and plow).
Relationships: Fill of [14006]. Overlies (14069).
Material Culture: A total of 69 sherds of pottery, 60 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 9 Roman.
PCW 59 D 1
RCWO 1 RCWR 5 RFWDS 1 RFWW 2
Interpretation*:* Upper (4th) fill of possible Iron Age pit – at the interface with the above sub-soil and so some mixing of Roman material.

(14069) FILL
Description: Loose, dark blackish brown sandy silt with limestone inclusions.
Relationships*:* Fill of [14006]. Overlain by [14007]. Overlies (14149).
Material Culture: A total of 54 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 47 PFW 7
Interpretation: 3rd fill of Iron age pit.

(14149) FILL
Description: Friable, mid greyish black silty sand with angular limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14006]. Overlies (14150). Overlain by (14069).
Material Culture: A total of 12 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 12
Interpretation: 2nd fill of Iron Age pit.

(14150) FILL
Description: Loose, light greyish white silty loam with small limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14006]. Overlain by (14149)
Material Culture: A total of 20 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 15 PFW 5
Interpretation: Initial (bottom) fill of Iron Age pit.

[14170] CUT Sections 14.29 and 14.30
Description: Sub-circular cut into limestone bedrock, c. 2m wide and .6m deep with vertical sides and a flat bottom. Contains 2 fills.
Relationships: Filled by (14171), (14183), and (14168). Cuts [14006]. Cut by [14166].
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Large pit, some parts of the sides are undercut. It has a clay-lined base,

(14171) FILL
Description: Loose, dark greyish brown silty sand, c. 15% poorly sorted, very angular limestone.
Relationships: Fill of [14170]. Overlies (14183/14168). Cut by [14166/14198].
Material Culture: A total of 44 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 40 PFWLB 3 PFWRE 1
Interpretation: Upper fill of Iron Age pit.

(14183) FILL
Description: loose, mid-yellowish grey silty sand with a small amount of limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14170]. Same as [14168]. Overlain by (14171).
Material Culture: A total of 15 sherds of pottery, 13 Prehistoric (Iron Age) and 2 Roman

PCW 12 PFW 1
RCWR 2
Interpretation: Initial fill of what is most likely an Iron Age pit. Not clear how the two sherds of Roman pottery were recorded with this fill.

(14168) FILL
Description: Loose, mid-brownish grey sand with some small limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14170]. Same as (14183). Overlain by (14171).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: Initial fill of what is most likely an Iron Age pit.

[14166] CUT
Description: Large, roughly oval-shaped cut c. 1.9m across and 1m deep, with V-shaped sides and a flat bottom. Contains 6 fills.
Relationships: Same as [14198]. Cuts [14006], [14170], (14171), and (14168/14183). Cut by [14217]. Filled by (14222/14216), (14215), (14221/14169), (14199), (14214), and (14167).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Large Iron Age pit. The 4th cut in a cluster of intercutting IA pits.

[14198/14166] CUT Sections 14.29 and 14.30
Description: Sub-circular cut into the limestone bedrock, with concave-shaped sides. Contains 6 fills.
Relationships: Same as [14166]. Cuts [14006], [14170], (14171), and (14168/14183). Cut by [14217]. Filled by (14222/14216), (14215), (14221/14169), (14199), (14214), and (14167).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Large Iron Age pit. The 4th cut in a cluster of intercutting IA pits.

(14167) FILL
Description: Friable, dark brownish black silty loam with c. 15% angular limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14166/14198]. Overlies (14214), (14199), (14221/14169). Cut by [14217]. Overlain by (14244).
Material Culture: A total of 10 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 10
Interpretation: Upper fill of Iron Age pit.
(14214) FILL
Description: Friable, dark greyish brown silty sand with small bits of charcoal.
Relationships: Fill of [14166/14198]. Overlies (14169/14221). Cut by [14217]. Overlain by (14167) and (14244).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: Middle fill of Iron Age pit.

(14221) FILL
Description: Loose, mid-greyish brown silty sand with c. 40% chunks of limestone.
Relationships: Same as (14169). Fill of [14198/14166]. Overlies (14222/14216) and (14215).
Material Culture: Recorded under (14169).
Interpretation: Third fill of Iron Age pit – consists of large bit of broken up limestone with a small quantity of Iron Age pottery.

(14169) FILL
Description: loose, dark brown grey sandy silt with large bits of limestone bedrock.

Relationships: Same as (14221). Fill of [14198/14166]. Overlies (14222/14216) and (14215).
Material Culture: A total of 6 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 4 PFWBL 2
Interpretation*:* Pile of stones seem to have been dumped into the middle of the pit.

(14199) FILL
Description: Loose, mid-yellowish silty sand with small amount of limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14166/14198]. Overlies (14221/14169). Overlain by (14167).
Material Culture: A total of 9 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 9
Interpretation: Fill which seems to have slumped in from the side of the pit. Small patches of yellow sand mixed in with the fill.

(14215) FILL
Description: Loose mid-brownish grey silty sand with c. 5% poorly sorted limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14166/14198]. Overlies (14216/14222). Overlain by (14169/14221).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: Second fill of Iron Age pit.

(14222) FILL
Description: Loose, mid-greyish white silty sand with a small quantity of small limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Same as (14216). Fill of [14166/14198]. Overlain by (14221/14169) and (14215).
Material Culture: Recorded under (14216).
Interpretation: Lower fill of Iron Age pit.

(14216) FILL
Description: Friable, dark blackish grey with small quantity of limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Same as (14222). Fill of [14166/14198]. Overlain by (14221/14169) and (14215).
Material Culture: A total of 4 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 3 RF 1
Interpretation: Lower fill of Iron Age pit.

[14217] CUT Sections 14.41 and 14.34
Description: Sub-circular cut into the limestone bedrock, with irregular concave sides, c. 1.1m in diametre and .7m deep with a flat bottom. Contains 3 fills.
Relationships: Cuts [14205] and (14206); [14166/14198], (14167), and (14214). Filled by (14218), (14244), and (14245).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Cut of a possible Iron Age pit (only IA ceramics come from the upper layer, which also contains several sherds of Roman pottery).

(14218) FILL
Description: Friable, dark brown loam with c. 10% limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14217]. Overlies (14244).
Material Culture: A total of 39 sherds of pottery, 37 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 2 Roman.
PCW 25 PFWBL 12

RCWO 2
Interpretation: Upper fill of small possible Iron Age pit.

(14244) FILL
Description: Friable, dark yellowish brown loam with a small amount of limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14217]. Overlies (14245), (14167), and (14214).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: Main fill of small pit.

(14245) FILL
Description: Friable, dark brown loam with c. 50% large stone blocks.
Relationships: Fill of [14217]. Overlies (14206). Overlain by (14244).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: Layer of stones at the bottom of the pit.

Cluster 1, Sequence 3 Pits [14229; 14190; 14196; 14241; 14177; and 14095].
[14229] CUT Sections 14.27, 14.28, 14.36, and 14.37
Description: Possible shallow circular cut. It is mostly truncated by later cuts [14192] and [14196].
Relationships: Cut by [14192] and [14196]. Filled by (14230).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Possible cut of a pit. Too truncated to interpret further.

(14230) FILL
Description: Loose, dark brown clay loam with c. 10% limestone inclusions (some burnt).
Relationships: Fill of [14229]. Cut by [14192] and [14196]. Overlies (14161). Overlain by (14193) and (14197).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: Fill of possible pit. Too truncated by later cuts to comment further.

[14190] CUT Sections 14.27, 14.28, 14.36, and 14.37
Description: Shallow circular cut into the limestone bedrock, c. .90m in diametre and .20m deep with shallow sides and a flat bottom.
Relationships: Filled by (14191). Cut by [14196].
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Cut of possible Iron Age pit. Very shallow – especially compared with surrounding pits.

(14191) FILL
Description: Loose dark brown sandy loam with c. 5% stone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14190]. Cut by [14196]. Overlain by (14204).
Material Culture: A total of 5 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 5
Interpretation: Only fill of shallow Iron Age pit.

[14196] CUT Sections 14.27, 14.28, 14.36, and 14.37
Description: Slightly irregular circular shallow circular cut, c. .78m across and .22m deep with U-shaped sides and a flat bottom. Contains 1 fill.
Relationships: Filled by (14197) and (14204). Cuts [14190] and (14191); [14229] and (14230). Cut by [14192] and [14241].

Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Cut of shallow possible Iron Age pit.

(14197) FILL
Description: Loose, dark brown loam with c. 5% stone inclusions and small amount of burnt stone.
Relationships: Fill of [14196]. Cut by [14192]. Overlies (14230) and (14191). Same as [14204].
Material Culture: A total of 8 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 8
Interpretation: Single fill of suspected shallow Iron Age pit. [also recorded as (14204 as quartered at different times].

(14204) FILL
Description: Loose, dark brown loam with c. 10% stone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14196]. Cut by [14192]. Overlies (14230) and (14191). Same as [14197].
Material Culture: A total of 3 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 3
Interpretation: Single fill of suspected shallow Iron Age pit. [also recorded as (14197 as quartered at different times].

[14241] CUT Section 14.27
Description: Oval cut into the limestone bedrock with sloped sides and a shallow rounded bottom, c. 1.3m across and .37m deep. Contains 1 fill and is truncated by later cut [14177].
Relationships: Cut by [14095] and [14177]. Filled by (14202). Cuts [14196].
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Possible pit. Part of a sequence of Iron Age cuts.

(14202) FILL
Description: Loose dark brown sandy loam with c. 10% small stone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14241]. Cut by [14095] and [14177]. Overlies (14204). Overlain by (14239) and (14094).
Material Culture: A total of 16 sherds of pottery, 15 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 1 Roman.
PCW 11 PFW 4
RCWR 1
Interpretation: Only fill of possible shallow Iron Age pit.

[14177] CUT Section 14.27
Description: Circular cut into the limestone bedrock with steep sides and a narrow, flat bottom. C. .9m diametre and .5m deep. Contains one fill.
Relationships*:* Filled by (14239). Cuts [14241] and (14202). Cut by [14198/14166].
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Possible small pit or large post-hole. Most likely Iron Age, based upon material recovered from within the fill.

(14239) FILL
Description: Friable blackish clay sand with limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14177]. Overlies (14202). Cut by [14166]. Same as [14178].
Material Culture: A total of 14 sherds of pottery, 11 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 3 Roman.

PCW 10 PFW 1
RFWR 1 D 2
***Interpretation**:* Fill of possible small IA pit or large posthole.

(14178) FILL
Description: Friable blackish clay sand with limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14177]. Overlies (14202). Cut by [14166]. Same as [14178].
Material Culture: A total of 5 sherds prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 5
Interpretation: Fill of possible small IA pit or large posthole.

[14095] CUT Sections 14.18 and 14.27
Description: Shallow sub-circular cut into the limestone bedrock, with flat bottom, c. .75m diametre and .15m deep. Contains 1 fill.
***Relationships**:* Cuts [14241] and (14202). Filled by (14094).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Possible pit. Part of a sequence of Iron Age cuts.

(14094) FILL
Description: Compact, dark blackish brown sandy silt with limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14095]. Overlies (14202).
Material Culture: A total of 35 sherds of pottery, 34 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 1 Roman.
PCW 34
OXFRS 1
***Interpretation**:* Only fill of a shallow cut, most likely Iron Age based on ceramics recovered inside it.

Cluster 1, Sequence 4 Pits [14192; 14175; 14076; 14194; and 14200].

[14192] CUT Sections 14.36, 14.38, and 14.42
Description: Circular cut through the bedrock with vertical sides and flat bottom, c. 1.47m across and .65m deep. Contains one fill.
Relationships: Cut by [14194] and [14200]. Cuts [14229] and [14196]. Filled by (14220) and (14193).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Cut for an Iron Age pit.

(14220) FILL
Description: Loose, dark brown sandy loam with sand at the bottom, c. 40% stone inclusions and small lens of charcoal and indication of burning.
Relationships: Fill of [14192]. Same as (14193).
Material Culture: A total of 31 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 26 PFW 5
Interpretation: Only fill of Iron Age pit.

(14193) FILL – PD NOTE: SAME AS [14220] but with a different line in the pottery database, included below.
Description:
Relationships:
Material Culture: A total of 24 sherds of pottery, 23 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 1 Roman

PCW 16 PFW 7
RFWR 1
Interpretation:

[14175] CUT Section 14.39 and 14.40
Description: Sub-rectangular cut into the limestone bedrock, with steep sides and a flat bottom. C. 1.1m deep and 1.4m across. Contains 8 fills.
Relationships: Filled by (14141), (14174), (14233), (14187), (14182), (14203), (14207), and (14212). Cut by [14200]
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Sub-rectangular shaped Iron Age pit with approximately 7 layers.

(14141) FILL
Description: Friable, dark greyish brown sandy loam with limestone and charcoal inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14175]. Overlies (14174).
Material Culture: A total of 84 sherds of pottery, 83 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 1 Roman.
PCW 78 PFW 5
RFWOX 1
Interpretation: Top fill of Iron Age pit. Piece of Roman pottery recovery – suspect that there was an intrusive feature cutting this layer. The same color layer continued below this but a new context number has been allocated due to possible contamination.

(14174) FILL
Description: Friable, mid to dark brown sandy silt/loam with c. 30% limestone inclusions.
Relationships*:* Fill of [14175]. Overlies (14182), (14233), and (14203).
Material Culture: A total of 47 sherds of pottery, 43 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 4 Roman.
PCW 35 PFW 5 PFWBL 3
RCWR 1 RFWR 3
Interpretation: One of the upper two fills of the Iron Age pit (Iron Age pottery found suggests this date). Possible contamination layer above showed signs of disturbance. There was an intrusive feature cutting layer above (14141). Large amounts of limestones.

(14233) FILL
Description: Compact, dark brown sandy loam with large limestone blocks. Concentrated into one cohesive pile.
Relationships: Fill of [14175]. Overlies (14187). Overlain by (14174).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: A dump of compacted stones in the center of the Iron Age pit. Similar to the one in pit [14142].

(14187) FILL
Description: Friable, dark reddish brown sandy loam with some limestone and charcoal inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14175]. Overlies (14203) and (14182). Overlain by (14233) and (14174).
Material Culture: A total of 26 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 26
Interpretation: Middle layer of pit – extends to north side only. Could indicate disturbance from other pits.

(14182) FILL
Description: Friable brownish black sandy silt/loam with 20% charcoal layer and c. 10% small limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14175]. Overlies (14203). Overlain by (14174) and (14187).
Material Culture: A total of 27 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 24 PFW 3
Interpretation: Middle fill of Iron Age pit. Suspect that this layer has been disturbed by (14187) – perhaps from another pit that cuts into the west/southwest.

(14203) FILL
Description: Friable, blackish brown sandy loam with charcoal and limestone flecks.
Relationships: Fill of [14175]. Overlies (14207) and (14212). Overlain by (14182) and (14187).
Material Culture: A total of 5 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 5
Interpretation: Fill of Iron Age pit.

(14207) FILL
Description: Friable, reddish brown sandy loam with c. 20% limestone cobbles and 10% charcoal.
Relationships*:* Fill of [14175]. Overlies (14212). Overlain by (14203).
Material Culture: A total of 23 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 19 PFW 4
Interpretation: Lower fill of an Iron Age pit. Very reddish layer with evidence for burning (burnt pottery and stone).

(14212) FILL
Description: Friable reddish brown sandy loam with some limestone and charcoal flecks.
Relationships: Fill of [14175]. Overlain by (14207) and (14203).
Material Culture: A total of 27 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 25 PFW 2
Interpretation: Bottom layer of Iron Age pit. A large amount of burnt pottery, bone, and charcoal and indications of disturbance – collapse towards western side.

[14076] CUT Section 14.35
Description: Semi-circular cut down through the limestone bedrock with vertical sides c. .65m deep and c. 1.4m across. Contains 4 fills. It truncated on the north side by cut [14200].
Relationships: Filled by (14077), (14225), (14184), and (14224). Cut by [14200].
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: One of a series of inter-cutting pits at the center of Trench 14.

(14077) FILL
Description*:* Firm dark blackish brown sandy silt with many limestone inclusions.
Relationships*:* Fill of [14076]. Overlies (14184) and (14225). Overlain by (14240).
Material Culture: A total of 62 sherds of pottery, 61 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 1 Roman.
PCW 56 PFW 5
D 1
Interpretation: Upper fill of pit. Sealed by the middle deposit (14012). Also lower fill of pit [14076] beneath cow bones.

(14225) FILL
Description: Friable, brown silty sand with some small limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14076]. Overlies (14184). Overlain by (14077).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: Fill of pit – only on the south side, so possible that it was a slump of material that fell in after the initial deposit (14184) was made. Does not seem to have been a deliberate deposit.

(14184) FILL
Description: Compact, blackish brown clay/sand with many limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14076]. Overlies (14224). Overlain by (14225), (14077), and (14240).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: Bottom fill of circular pit, contains a possible circular pile of stones (as seen in other near-by pits – could be part of a ritual process?).

(14224) FILL
Description: Firm reddish-brown sandy loam with small limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14076]. Overlain by (14184) and (14240).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: Primary silty fill at the base of the pit. Possible that this is material that slumped in soon after the pit was dug. Does not seem to have been a deliberate deposit.

[14194] CUT Section 14.33
Description: Circular cut into the underlying limestone, c. 1m across and .72m deep. The bottom slopes gently down from west to east. The cut contains three fills.
Relationships*:* Cuts [14192]. Filled by (14195), (14235), and (14236).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Cut for an Iron Age pit. The bottom two fills do not contain any datable material (no ceramics) but the upper fill contains some Iron Age ceramics.

(14195) FILL
Description: Loose dark brown soil with sand at the bottom and c. 35% stone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14194]. Overlies (14235).
Material Culture: A total of 25 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 22 PFW 3
Interpretation: Upper fill of a suspected Iron Age pit.

(14235) FILL
Description: Loose, dark brown sandy loam with c. 5% stone inclusions.
Relationships*:* Fill of [14194]. Overlies (14236). Overlain by (14195).
Material Culture: No pottery.
Interpretation: Second fill of a suspected Iron Age pit.

(14236) FILL
Description: Loose, dark brown sandy loam with lots of small stone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14194]. Overlain by (14235).
Material Culture: No pottery.
Interpretation: Bottom fill of a suspected Iron Age pit.

[14200] CUT Sections 14.35 and 14.38
Description: Identify in the field as a linear feature in the limestone bedrock that formed when an area between two cuts slumped. Here we will treat this as a shallow cut, with irregular shape (not clear on the plan) and a gentle U-shaped bottom.
Relationships*:* Cuts [14192], (14220), [14175], (14174), [14076], (14077). Filled by (14201), (14240), and (14213).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Some sort of shallow cut or disturbance between three pits. It is not clear if this is natural feature or a cultural feature.

(14201) FILL
Description: Firm dark brown sandy loam with 20% limestone inclusions and small quantity of charcoal flecks.
Relationships: Fill of [14200]. Overlies (14213) and (14240).
Material Culture: A total of 13 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 11 PFW 2
Interpretation: Upper layer – fill of possible shallow cut or natural depression.

(14240) FILL
Description: Friable, blackish brown clay sand with some limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14200]. Overlies (14077), (14224), and (14213). Overlain by (14201).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: Finds from this layer might have been recorded in some combination of (14077) and (14201). Second fill of possible pit or natural depression.

(14213) FILL
Description: Firm, reddish brown loam with 40% stone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14200]. Overlain by (14240) and (14201).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: Lowest fill of possible shallow pit or natural depression.

Pit Cluster 2 [14070; 14004; and 14090]

[14004] CUT Sections 14.01, 14.05
Description: A roughly circular cut down through the limestone bedrock into the underlying sand, c. 1.5m across, with irregular steep sides and a V-shaped bottom. C. 1.3 m deep. Contains 5 fills. The uppermost fill is cut by a shallow pit [14070].
Relationships*:* Filled by (14115), (14111), (14101), (14072), and (14071).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation*:* A large circular pit, seems to have been used as a rubbish pit.

(14071) FILL
Description: Compact, mid-yellowish brown silty clay, with small pieces of burnt stone.
Relationships*:* Fill of [14004]. Overlain by (14000). Overlies (14072). Butted by (14005). Cut by [14070].
Material Culture: A total of 2 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age). PCW 2
Interpretation*:* Uppermost fill of the pit. Similar to underlying (14072). It was largely truncated by later cut [14070].

(14072) FILL
Description: Compact, mid-yellowish brown silty clay with small fragments of burnt stone.
Relationships: Fill of [14004]. Overlies (14101). Overlain by (14071) and (14005).
Material Culture: A total of 45 sherds of pottery were recovered, 43 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 2 Roman (highly likely that the Roman pot got mixed in as this is almost certainly a secure Iron Age deposit based on the context).
PCW 38 PFW 3 PFWBL 2
Interpretation*:* Fourth fill of the pit. Seems to have been a deliberate deposit.

(14101) FILL
Description: Friable, mid-blackish brown silty sand, with some large stones placed on the top of the fill.
Relationships: Fill of [14004]. Overlies (14111). Overlain by (14072).
Material Culture: A total of 35 sherds of pottery were recovered, 34 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 1 Roman (highly likely that the Roman pot got mixed in as this is almost certainly a secure Iron Age deposit based on the context).
PCW 30 PFW 1 PFWBL 3
Interpretation: A substantial fill of the pit – contains both pottery and a lot of metal slag. Does not seem to have been votive, so likely to have been a rubbish pit.

(14111) FILL
Description: Tough, mid-greyish brown sandy clay, with 20% large sub-angular limestone blocks.
Relationships: Fill of [14004]. Overlies (14115). Overlain by (14101).
Material Culture: Five sherds of Prehistoric pottery (PCW) – most likely Iron Age.
Interpretation: The second fill of the pit… mainly seems to consist of material that was dug out of the pit.

(14115) FILL
Description: Loose mid-greenish brown clayish sand with some small limestone flakes.
Relationships: Fill of [14004]. Overlain by (14111).
Material Culture: Field notes indicates that the context contained one sherd of IA pottery.
Interpretation: Initial fill of the pit, contained in a small scoop at the base of the pit.

[14070] CUT Section 14.05
Description: Shallow cut with gently sloping sides and a flat bottom, c. 13.5 cm deep. Cut into the upper fill of pit [14004].
Relationships: Filled by (14005). Overlain by (14000). Cuts (14071).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: It is unclear if this represents a separate cut into the upper fill of pit [14004] or if it part of the fill sequence of that pit. Here we treat it as a separate cut to keep the data separate.

(14005) FILL
Description*:* Compact, mid-greyish brown soil with large flat stones, fragments of burnt stone, and flecks of charcoal.
Relationships: Fill of [14070]. Overlies (14072) and (14071).
Material Culture: A total of 67 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 58 PFW 6 RF 3

Interpretation: This is either the sole fill of a shallow re-cut of the older pit [14004] or the final deposit in pit [14004]. Contains a rich assortment of Iron Age pottery, making it highly likely that the entire pit and fill sequence was Iron Age.

[14090] CUT Section 14.32
Description: Roughly square-shaped cut through the limestone bedrock into the underlying sand. 2.2m wide and c. 1m deep. The cut contains seven fills.
Relationships: Filled by (12238), (14237), (14226), (14219), (14210), (14227), (14091).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: An Iron Age pit.

(14091) FILL
Description: Compact, dark blackish brown sandy silt with small pieces of limestone.
Relationships*:* Fill of [14090]. Overlies (14227) and (14210).
Material Culture: A total of 128 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 113 PFW 15
Interpretation: Uppermost fill of a large Iron Age pit. Deliberate fill. Contains an extensive amount of Iron Age pottery.

(14227) FILL
Description: Friable, mid-orange brown sandy loam with a small quantity of limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14090]. Overlies (14210) and (14219). Overlain by (14091).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: A small dump of material on the northern side of the pit.

(14210) FILL
Description: Loose, dark yellow sandy loam (c. 90% sand), with no inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14090]. Overlies (14219). Overlain by (14227) and (14091).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: A thin dump of sandy material covering the underlying deposit (which contains lots of burnt material and Iron Age pottery).

(14219) FILL
Description: Compact, dark brownish black silty loam with stones (including burnt stones).
Relationships: Fill of [14090]. Overlies (14226) and (14237). Overlain by (14210) and (14227)
Material Culture: A total of 71 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 60 PFW 1 PRWBL 8 D 2
Interpretation: A deliberate dump of burnt material with a large quantity of Iron Age ceramics. Similar in composition to the basal deposit (14238) – but separated from that deposit by two sandy deposits (14237) and (14226).

(14226) FILL
Description: loose, dark yellow sandy loam with no rock inclusions.
Relationships*:* Fill of [14090]. Overlies (14237) and (14238).
Material Culture: A total of 2 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 2
Interpretation: A small dump of sand in the middle of the pit sequence. Does not cover the entire underlying deposit.

(14237) FILL
Description: Friable, mid-yellowish brown silty loam with small limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14090]. Overlies (14238). Overlain by (14226) and (14219).
Material Culture: A total of 20 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 17 PFW 3
Interpretation: The second fill of the pit. A deliberate dump of sandy material. Distinctly different from the underlying deposit.

(14238) FILL
Description: Compact, dark black brown clay loam with large, heavily burnt stones.
Relationships: Fill of [14090]. Overlain by (140237).
Material Culture: A total of 123 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 115 PFW 8
Interpretation: The bottom fill of the pit. A deliberate deposit with a heavily burnt area at the base of the pit. Contains large quantity of Iron Age pottery.

Stand-Alone Pits [14105, 14156; 14145; 14142; 14079; 14084]

[14105] CUT Section 14.20
Description: Probably sub-rectangular, but runs under the north baulk of the trench. Vertical sides to the east, undercutting to the west. Sharp break of slope at the top. C. 1.05m x .4m x .85 m deep. Contains three fills.
Relationships: Cuts through (14114). Cut by (14106). Filled by (14147), (14109), and (14088).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Pit running under the north baulk of the trench. Probably of Iron Age date.

(14088) FILL
Description: Friable, mid-reddish brown sandy loam with small stones, burnt stones, pottery, and some animal bone.
Relationships: Fill of [14015]. Cut by [14106]. Abutted by (14107). Overlies (14109). Overlain by (14000).
Material Culture: A total of 40 sherds of pottery, 37 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 3 Roman.
PCW 37
RCWO 2 RFWOX 1
Interpretation: Top fill of an Iron Age pit. Most likely a deliberate deposit, of unknown purpose. Several Roman sherds were recovered from this unit, but most likely worked in from above.

(14109) FILL
Description: Friable, mid-reddish brown with yellow sand and clay, with small amount of charcoal and stone inclusions. Contains pottery sherds and a small amount of abraded bone and burnt stone. A copper needle.
Relationships: Fill of [14105]. Overlies (14147). Overlain by (14088).
Material Culture: A total of 14 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age). PCW 14
Interpretation: Second fill of the Iron Age pit. Most likely a deliberate deposit of material, but does not seem to be votive.

(14147) FILL
Description: Loose, dark yellowish brown sandy clay loam, with c. 10% limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14105]. Overlain by (14109)

Material Culture: A total of 7 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age). PCW 7
Interpretation: Initial fill of Iron Age pit contains a small amount of burnt bone and a few teeth. Seems to have been a deliberate deposit.

[14156] CUT Section 14.21
Description: Irregular circle, c. 2.5m in diametre with gentle sloping sides.
Relationships: Cut through by pit [14145]. Filled by [14160].
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Most likely a tree throw or natural erosion. No indication that it is a cultural feature. It is cut through by Iron Age pit [14145].

(14160) FILL
Description: Thin layer of loose, mid-reddish brown sandy loam with limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14156]. Cut by [14145].
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: Loose spread of material within what seems to be a natural depression (perhaps caused by a tree throw). The Iron Age pit is cut right through this material. No indication that this is a cultural deposit.

[14145] CUT Section 14.21
Description: Circular cut through the limestone bedrock, c. 1.5m in diametre and .85m deep with steep sides and a flat bottom. Contains five fills.
Relationships: Cuts [14156] and (14160). Filled by(14173), (14172), (14159), (14155), and (14146).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Cut of an Iron Age pit.

(14146) FILL
Description: Compact, mid-greyish brown sandy loam with limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14145]. Overlies (14155).
Material Culture: A total of 19 sherds of pottery, 17 Prehistoric (Iron Age), and 2 Roman.
PCW 17
RCWR 1 RFWR 1
Interpretation: Upper fill of the Iron Age pit. Contains a few sherds of Roman pottery, but almost certainly this were worked into the fill from the soil above.

(14155) FILL
Description: Friable/loose medium brown sandy loam with small charcoal flecks and fragments of burnt limestone.
Relationships: Fill of [14145]. Overlies (14159). Overlain by (14146).
Material Culture: A total of 18 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 17 PFW 1
Interpretation: Middle fill of Iron Age pit. Fill is similar in dimensions and characteristics as the below fill (14159). Deposit deliberately filled (purpose uncertain).

(14159) FILL
Description: Compact mid-brown (with patches of reddish) sandy clay with charcoal and burnt stones.
Relationships: Fill of [14145]. Overlies (14172) and (14173). Overlain by (14155).
Material Culture: A total of 18 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).

PCW 16 PFW 1 RF 1
Interpretation: Main lower fill of Iron Age pit. Deposit deliberately filled (purpose uncertain).

(14172) FILL
Description: Friable, yellowish grey sand with fragments of limestone and charcoal. Thin fill that covers the northern half of the bottom of the pit.
Relationships: Fill of [14145]. Overlies (14173). Overlain by (14159).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: Lower fill of Iron age pit. Seems to mainly consist of material that was initially dug out of the pit during construction.

(14173) FILL
Description: Friable, blackish grey clay loam with c. 75% limestone fragments. Thin fill that only covers the bottom of the southern half of the pit.
Relationships*:* Fill of [14145]. Overlain by (14172) and (14159).
Material Culture: A total of 1 sherd of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 1
Interpretation: Initial fill of an Iron Age pit.

[14142] CUT Section 14.23
Description: Circular cut down through the limestone bedrock with smaller circular cut on the side, c. 1.8m diametre. Steep, irregular sides and flat bottom. Contains 6 fills.
Relationships*:* Filled by (14158), (14157), (14154), (14153), (14148), and (14143).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Cut of Iron Age pit.

(14143) FILL
Description: Friable, blackish mid-brown sandy loam with limestone, burnt limestone, flint, and charcoal.
Relationships: Fill of [14142]. Overlies (14148) and (14153).
Material Culture: A total of 56 sherds of pottery, 55 prehistoric (Iron Age), and 1 Roman
PCW 50 PFW 5
RCWR 1
Interpretation: Upper fill of an Iron Age pit.

(14148) FILL
Description: Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt with limestone, burnt limestone, snail shells, and charcoal.
Relationships: Fill of [14142]. Overlies (14153). Overlain by (14143).
Material Culture: A total of 29 sherds of pottery, 26 prehistoric (Iron Age), and 3 Roman
PCW 23 PFW 2 D 1
RFWW 3
Interpretation: Fill near the top of an Iron Age pit. It is likely that several Roman sherds were worked into or recorded with this deposit from the above layer.

(14153) FILL
Description: Friable, dark greyish brown sandy clay with limestone, burnt limestone, flint, charcoal, and snail shells.

Relationships: Fill of [14142]. Overlies (14158), and (14154). Overlain by (14148) and (14143).
Material Culture: A total of 65 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 59 PFW 3
Interpretation: Middle fill of Iron Age pit. Seems to have been a deliberate deposit.

(14154) FILL
Description: Compact, mid-brownish black silty clay with limestone, burnt limestone, and charcoal inclusions. Fill is on both sides of (14158), but does not cover over it.
Relationships: Fill of [14142]. Overlies (14157) and (14158). Overlain by (14153).
Material Culture: A total of 42 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 36 PFW 4 D 2
Interpretation: Seems to have been dumped in after the rocky fill (14158). Possible that these were part of a rapid sequence of deliberate infill.

(14157) FILL
Description: Compact, dark brownish black sandy clay, with inclusions of limestone, burnt stone, and charcoal.
Relationships: Fill of [14142]. Overlies (14158). Overlain by (14154).
Material Culture: A total of 55 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 52 PFW 3
Interpretation: Fill near bottom of an Iron Age pit.

(14158) FILL
Description: Friable, black-brown clay sand with bone and pot. Deposit of limestone rocks and bone trapped between the rocks. The rocks form a pile at the center of the pit, not extending out over the whole layer. Fill (14157) is measured from the bottom of these rocks, (14154) is around them and (14153) is above them.
Relationships: Fill of [14142]. Overlain by (14157), (14154), and (14153).
Material Culture: A total of 32 sherds of pottery, 30 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 2 Roman.
PCW 28 PFW 1 RF 1
RFWOX 1 SM 1
Interpretation: Basal fill of what is most likely an Iron Age pit (need to explain the presence of two sherds of Roman pottery).

(14162) FILL
Description: Compact, mid-grey clay with some sand pockets.
Relationships:
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: A natural clay lens in the bedrock.

(14161) FILL
Description: Loose, yellow sand underlying the limestone.
Relationships: N/A
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Natural sand under the limestone bedrock.

[14079] CUT Section 14.26
Description: Circular cut, c. 1.1 m in diameter, down into the limestone bedrock with vertical sides and a flat bottom, c. .79m deep. Contains 9 fills.

Relationships: Filled by (14181), (14176), (14165), (14152), (14140), (14138), (14130), (14122), (14132), and (14080).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Most likely an Iron Age pit located underneath the spread of a Roman midden.

(14080) FILL
Description: Thin layer of compact, mid-yellowish brown sandy silt, with c. 10% small stone fragments.
Relationships: Fill of [14079]. Overlies (14122) and (14132). Overlain by (14012) and (14019).
Material Culture: A total of 13 sherds of pottery, 9 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 4 Roman.
PCW 9
RCWR 2 RFWDS 1 OXFRS 1
Interpretation: Upper fill of the pit – probably the same as (14122), but given separate context number in case of contamination from (14012).

(14122) FILL
Description: Friable dark yellowish brown sandy loam with c. 5% small stones. Very small amount of charcoal.
Relationships: Fill of [14079]. Overlies (14130) and (14138). Overlain by (14012) and (14080).
Material Culture: A total of 47 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 44 PFW 1 RF 2
Interpretation: Upper fill of the pit, contained within the stone lining (14130). Sealed by the later Roman midden (14012).

(14132) FILL
Description: Friable, dark yellowish brown sandy loam with c. 20% angular stones and very small amount of charcoal.
Relationships: Fill of [14079]. Overlies (14138). Overlain by (14080).
Material Culture: A total of 9 sherds of pottery, 7 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 2 Roman.
PCW 7
RCWR 1 D 1
Interpretation: Upper fill of the pit – at the interface with the overlaying deposits (which explains the presence of several sherds of Roman pottery).

(14130) FILL
Description: Limestone slabs of variable size, arranged in a dish like form.
Relationships: Fill of [14079]. Overlies (14132) and (14138). Overlain by (14122).
Material Culture: A total of 13 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 13
Interpretation: Material appears to have been deliberately placed into the previous fill (14132) of the pit, although possible that may have been caused by slumping.

(14138) FILL
Description: Loose dark brown sandy loam with gravel inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14079]. Overlies (14140) and (14152). Overlain by (14130), (14132), and (14122).
Material Culture: A total of 21 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 21

Interpretation: Dump of material containing early Iron Age pottery, dumped into the pit from the north side (only covers part of the pit).

(14140) FILL
Description: Layer of large limestone blocks, deposits in a roughly circular shape in the center of the pit, 68cm in diameter at its widest. A few stones found lying at the eastern edge. Surrounding fill dark brown, loose with few inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14079]. Overlies (14152). Overlain by (14138) and (14122).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: Deliberate deposition of large stones, with one large pottery rim underneath.

(14152) FILL
Description: Fairly loose mid-greyish brown sandy loam.
Relationships: Fill of [14079]. Overlies (14165). Overlain by (14140) and (14138).
Material Culture: The context sheet reports early Iron Age pottery, but there is no data for this context in the ceramics database.
Interpretation: Fill of the pit, with flecks of charcoal and deliberate deposit of rocks in the center, and sherds of early Iron Age pottery.

(14165) FILL
Description: Loose, friable yellowish brown sandy loam with some stone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14079]. Overlies (14176) and (14181). Overlain by (14152).
Material Culture: A total of 14 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 14
Interpretation: Fill at the bottom of the pit, contains a mix of sediment, burnt animal bone, charcoal flecks, and some Iron Age pottery.

(14181) FILL
Description: Hard grey clay with some flecks of charcoal.
Relationships: Fill of [14079]. Overlain by (14176) and (14165).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: Thin layer of compacted clay at the bottom of the pit.

(14176) FILL
Description: Compact, dark brown silty sand with limestone inclusions, as well as burnt stone, animal bones, and flecks of charcoal.
Relationships: Fill of [14079]. Overlies (14181). Overlain by (14165)
Material Culture: A total of 5 sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron Age).
PCW 5
Interpretation: Initial deposit at the base of the pit, contained deposit of burnt stone, some ceramics, and bone. Intentional deposit.

[14084] CUT Section 14.19
Description: Sub-rectangular cut with vertical sides and a flat base down through the limestone bedrock. Contains three fills.
Relationships: Filled by (14151), (14126), and (14085).
Material Culture: N/A
Interpretation: Cut of a pit of probable Early Iron Age date.

(14085) FILL
Description: Compact mid-greyish brown sandy silt with c. 5% limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14084]. Overlies (14126). Overlain by (14012), (14038), (14039), (14047), (14048), (14049), and (14051).
Material Culture: A total of 8 sherds of pottery, 7 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 1 Roman.
PCW 7
RCWR 1
Interpretation: Upper layer of the pit. Given a separate context number due to possible contamination from the middle (14012).

(14126) FILL
Description: Loose mid to dark blackish brown sandy silt with small limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Fill of [14084]. Overlies (14151). Overlain by (14085).
Material Culture: A total of 126 sherds of pottery, 119 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 7 Roman.
PCW 118 PFW 1
RFWOX 2 RFWR 4 D 1
Interpretation: Main fill of the pit. Fragments of cattle and sheep bone and early Iron Age pottery. A deliberate deposit, most likely a waste tip. There are a few Roman sherds recorded with this level, but likely that they were worked in from the above layer as the pit seems firmly Iron Age.

(14151) FILL
Description: Loose, light brown sandy loam with small stone inclusions and charcoal flecks.
Relationships: Fill of [14084]. Overlain by (14126).
Material Culture: A total of 92 sherds prehistoric (Iron Age) pottery.
PCW 81 PFW 11
Interpretation: Bottom fill of pit.

LAYERS
(14114) LAYER
Description: Loose, mid-reddish brown sandy silt, with 10 – 20% small limestone inclusions.
Relationships: Overlain by (14137). Cut by [14105].
Material Culture: A total of 54 sherds of pottery, 50 prehistoric (Iron Age) and 4 Roman.
PCW 47 PFW 3
RCWR 2 OXFRS 1 D 1
Interpretation: Probably a re-worked subsoil found in patches throughout the trench. Not completely sterile, hence the idea that is was re-worked. Cut by the majority of the Iron Age pits in the area. Directly overlies bedrock.

ROMAN

(14231) LAYER
Description: Spread of compact, yellow, angular limestone cobbles, up to 6cm deep. Truncated by cut [14232]. Runs under the extent of trench to the southern side.
Relationships: Overlain by (14211). Cut by [14232/14295]. Overlies (14001).
Material Culture: None.
Interpretation: Cobbled area abutting Roman midden on the southern side of the trench.

[14232/14295] CUT (Favissa pit)
This feature was excavated over several seasons and never fully excavated. It was at least 3m in diameter and 1.5m deep and contained ??sherds of Roman pottery with six sherds of residual Iron Age pottery. The pit contained extensive animal bone remains (for details see Randall, this website).

It contained multiple fills as follows:
(14292) Top fill. 839 sherds of Roman pottery, 1 sherd of Iron Age pottery. 44 small finds including 18 coins, copper-alloy items and glass fragments.
(14310) Middle fill, burnt deposit. 29 sherds of Roman pottery, no Iron Age. One find, a fragment of glass vessel.
(14311) Middle fill, burnt deposit. 13 sherds of Roman pottery, no Iron Age. Two finds, an iron hinge and link piece.
(14332) A charcoal deposit within (14311). No pottery or finds.
(14312) Middle fill. 95 sherds of Roman pottery and one sherd of Iron Age, Four finds, three coins and a glass fragment.
(14340) Middle fill with 50% bedrock inclusions. Six sherds of Roma pottery, no Iron Age. No finds.
(14325) Middle fill includes large limestone blocks. 38 sherds of Roman pottery, no Iron Age. No finds.
(14329) Middle fill includes 50% bedrock inclusions. 86 sherds of Roman pottery, no Iron Age. Five finds, an iron brooch and iron fragments.
(14356) Middle fill. No pottery. No finds.
(14349) Middle fill. Eleven sherds of Roman pottery, no Iron Age. One find, a copper-alloy strip.
(14339) Middle fill at the edge of the pit, high up. 11 sherds of Roman pottery, two sherds of Iron Age. One find, a possible copper-alloy finger ring.
(14333) Middle fill with small limestone inclusions. No pottery. No finds.
(14335) Middle fill against the bedrock. Four sherds of Roman pottery, no Iron Age. No finds.
(14341) Middle fill with large limestone fragments. 14 Roman sherds, no Iron Age. No finds.
(14342) Middle fill, a sloping deposit near the centre. Ten Roman sherds, no Iron Age. No finds.
(14343) Middle fill with limestone inclusions. 15 sherds of Roman pottery, one Iron Age. One find, a glass vessel fragments.
(14346) Middle fill at pit edge. Six sherds of Roman pottery, no Iron Age. One find, a copper-alloy strip.
(14347) Middle fill, silty sand with limestone inclusions. 11 sherds of Roman pottery, no Iron Age. No finds.
(14350) Middle fill, burnt lense within (14347). No pottery. No finds.
(14348) Middle fill, a patch of silty sand. Five sherds of Roman pottery, no Iron Age. No finds.
(14345) Middle fill, due to slumping and weathering? No pottery. No finds.
(14351) Middle fill, weathered natural? No pottery. No finds.
(14352) Middle fill, weathered layer just above the base. 14 sherds of Roman pottery, one sherd of Iron Age. No finds.
(14354) Middle fill, burnt lense within (14352). No pottery. No finds.
(14353) Middle fill, burnt deposit near the base. One sherd of Roman pottery, no Iron Age. No finds.
(14316) Middle fill. No pottery. One find, a coin.
(14344) Middle fill, no pottery. Two finds, a glass bead and an iron brooch.

(14355) Botton fill, across the base of the pit with some weathered bedrock. Five sherds of Roman pottery, no Iron Age. No finds.

(14012) Midden deposit.
The midden is a continuation of the deposition within the *favissa* pit once that was filled, spreading out from the top of the pit. It was sampled by excavating alternate 1m squares in a grid across its extent, Figure 27. The deposit was a maximum of 0.3m deep onto bedrock and consisted of a dark organic loam containing pottery and animal bone. Because of the large number of different context numbers generated by this excavation method they are not listed here but are included in the MF14 Stratigraphy spreadsheet (this website).



Figure 27. The grid excavation of the Roman midden (14012)